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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League's 100th Session Continues 20 Sep

Text of 'Arafat Speech 19 Sep

JN2009145993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 93 p 28

[Text of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech to the 100th Arab League Council Session in Cairo on 19 September]

[Text] Your excellency the chairman:

Your Excellency Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general:

Your excellencies the ministers:

Brothers and sisters:

Greetings.

I am pleased to stand here today among my brothers at the Arab League Council session and greet you on behalf of our struggling, mujahid Palestinian people; on behalf of our Palestinian people who are holding out in our occupied territories, in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, Jericho, Hebron, Khan Yunus, Ramallah, Jenin, Bethlehem and every Palestinian town, village, and camp; and on behalf of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the homeland who now are passing through days of great anxiety and anticipation. I greet you on behalf of the PLO, the people's sole and legitimate representative, and my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee.

From this Arab forum, I am pleased to send my greetings and amity to all my brother kings, presidents, and amirs of Arab states for the brotherly and pan-Arab support they offer to our Palestinian people as they struggle to regain their national inalienable rights. I also thank them for their hospitality and sharing of the same destiny with our people in the many countries of our great Arab homeland, and also for the work they do to ensure the return of all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, the most important of which is Holy Jerusalem.

I am also pleased to greet the Arab Republic of Egypt and His Excellency brother President Husni Mubarak, his esteemed government, and the fraternal Egyptian people. I thank His Excellency President Mubarak for his efforts and the major role he played in realizing this achievement. I also extend greetings to my brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and fraternal Tunisia for their valuable help in this regard, and to all brother Arab leaders who have made a contribution in that direction.

I extend my great appreciation for His Excellency brother Dr. 'Ismat Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid for his exhaustive efforts to close Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity so that we can face the new world order as a cohesive force and ensure that this new world order will not be realized at the expense of our nation and peoples.

I also extend greetings to the brother ministers for their great efforts in the field of political coordination over the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, which has protected and strengthened the unity of the Arab negotiating position. I also hail the great efforts the Arab negotiating delegations are exerting and the political and technical competence they have shown in these long and exhausting negotiations, which are still at their beginnings, to enable us to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in our region and on all Arab tracks.

Brothers:

I have come to see you in this esteemed conference because it is the first comprehensive Arab meeting to convene after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. Your Arab right and my pan-Arab duty dictate that I must brief my brothers and kinsfolk in the Arab states on the reality and results of that event and because Palestine, which has always been the cause of all Arabs, will always remain part of its nation and homeland. The closer Palestine gets to the hour of freedom and independence, the more concerned it gets about reaffirming its Arab affiliation and pan-Arab destiny; its unbreakable ties to its nation, history, and pan-Arab surroundings; and its Islamic-Christian heritage, because it is the first qiblah, the house of the third holiest shrine, the place from which Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and prayers be upon him, ascended to heaven, and the birthplace of Jesus Christ, God's blessings be upon him.

Over the long past decades, we addressed you amid the pains and sufferings of our people. And the Arab League, which—with all its bodies, particularly the summit conferences and your esteemed council—embraced our people, nursed their wounds, and defended their concerns and cause, is still doing this. All of us, with all our nation's pains, wounds, hopes, and aspirations for the future stand on the threshold of a new phase in our history, amid all the changes, shifting balances of power, and new criteria within the new world order. We put at the top of our concerns our nation's interests, its strategic, national, and pan-Arab security, and its right to unity, development, progress, prosperity, and to achieve its pan-Arab objectives. We also put at the top of our concerns our nation's endeavor to liberate all occupied Palestinian and Arab territory, restore our people's inalienable national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and to establish their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital on the path to confederation between Jordan and Palestine in accordance with the deliberate and free choice of the two fraternal peoples. I would like here to note His Majesty King Husayn's good and important stand in pushing the situation toward broad future horizons, particularly since the joint committees began work on more than one level.

The leaders of our Arab nation were able—through their wisdom, vision, and concern for pan-Arab interests—to deal and interact with, as well as to affect and to be affected by, the changes that have taken place from the beginning of the Palestine disaster until now. Hence, the Arabs participated in the bilateral and multilateral peace talks to resolve the Middle East problem and the Palestine question that began two years in Madrid. The Arabs' participation was based on the resolutions adopted by the Arab summits, particularly the summits held in Casablanca, Fez—under the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd—Baghdad, and Algiers, as well as the resolutions recommended by your honorable councils.

You are fully aware that these resolutions were always based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, human rights, and the other specialized international organizations. Hence, the resolutions of our National Council came in harmony with these resolutions to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its essence—the Palestine question. Our National Council endorsed the peace initiative in 1988, and earlier, in 1974, our national council agreed on setting up a national Palestinian authority on any part of the Palestinian land that was liberated or from which the Israelis withdrew. We also participated in the peace process in Madrid in 1991 on the basis of President Bush's initiative—that is, land for peace, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects, and on the basis of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the security of all parties in the region. Within this framework, the peace talks began in Madrid in order to resolve the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question and continued on the bilateral and multilateral tracks in rounds of talks, the last of which was the 11th round, in addition to the dialogue held during the visits to the region by U.S. and Russian officials in their capacity as cosponsors of the peace process.

You know that after 22 months of these negotiations, no progress had been made on the Palestinian-Israeli track. However, there was an escalation in all forms of Israeli repression against our people in our occupied Palestinian territory, particularly the implementation of the iron-fist policy and the isolation of and siege on all areas, particularly holy Jerusalem. There was also an escalation in deportations, repression, detentions, the demolition of houses, the confiscation of lands, the defiling of Islamic and Christian holy places, the closure of universities and educational institutions, the deterioration of the economic situation in the West Bank—which reached the point of starvation in the Gaza Strip, not to mention the frequent aggressions against fraternal southern Lebanon to destroy all means of life and to undermine its steadfastness and determination to its rights recognized by UN Security Council Resolution 425. The negotiations between our delegation and the Israeli delegation in Washington also reached a deed end due to what you know was a clear retreat on the bases of the peace process: namely, President Bush's initiative and the two letters of assurances and invitation. You kept informed about what was taking place in the consecutive rounds, whether through the meetings of the Arab ministerial coordination committees and councils, or through the direct contacts and meetings, which we have always been concerned about holding with the fraternal Arab states. In light of this situation, it was necessary to achieve a political breakthrough away from spotlight to break the stalemate and to open gaps in the stone wall that the negotiations had reached. Particularly after the change that took place in the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government following the general elections, which were conducted last year and won by the Labor Party coalition based on its declaration to its masses that it has a different option to achieve peace with the Palestinian people and the Arab states.

Out of our concern to push the peace process forward for the sake of achieving the objectives of our people and nation, we had to confront the Israeli intransigence and continuous disavowal of the bases and terms of reference of the peace process. This is because the peace process was about to collapse, or it had already collapsed. Later, we received an offer, which was no more than an early assumption of functions under the Israeli occupation along with $590 million in assistance to encourage us to take the offer, but we rejected it altogether. Brothers, based on this we proceeded to respond positively to some side endeavors and various channels in an attempt to get out of this impasse and to open gaps in the wall the negotiations had reached. In this regard, we cooperated with several fraternal and friendly efforts, most of which produced no specific or positive results for various reasons. However, some of these attempts succeeded. Among these was what took place in Norway through the mediation of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, and here in fraternal Egypt, which exerted strenuous efforts to break this stalemate. This took place through the meeting between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and the delegations President Mubarak instructed to hold talks with Israeli delegations. This is in addition to the benevolent efforts exerted by the brothers in Tunisia and the other Arab and friendly foreign presidents and officials.

In our dialogue with the Israeli side, we proceeded from the bases of joint Arab action for negotiations as well as the terms of reference of the peace process that we have all accepted; namely the principles President Bush announced on the eve of the launching of the peace process in Madrid. Several months later, and after rounds of profound talks and extensive contacts, to which a number of our brothers here have contributed, we reached an agreement on the declaration of principles and mutual recognition between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

Dear brothers: We are now at an important historic juncture in the history of our national and pan-Arab question. We are entering a new phase, in which Israel, for the first time since the start of the conflict toward the end of the 19th century, has officially recognized the Palestinian people, their legitimate rights, their occupied territories, and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of this people. Each of us recalls that the Zionist plan for Palestine was based on the premise that Palestine is a land without a people given to a people without a land. This position remained unchanged, even during the Washington rounds of talks, particularly since the Israeli side refused to admit that our territories were occupied, and that the population of these territories constitutes the Palestinian Arab people, who have lived on these territories since time immemorial, forging their rich legacy, and seeking inspiration from the heavenly messages revealed by God on the Palestinian holy land. The Palestinian people have drenched every acre of their territory with blood in defense of this territory and its Arabism. Likewise, they have confronted all forms of foreign invasion.

Dear brothers: The agreement we have reached constitutes, more or less, an initial step that spells out the ground rules governing the interim solution, as well as the basic components of the final solution, which must result in the dismantlement of the occupation and the complete withdrawal of occupation troops from our land, holy places, and holy Jerusalem. With regard to the phased and interim measures that will be carried out, they will be manifested at this point in time in the restoration of a dear part of the occupied Palestinian territories on the heels of a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, and the installment of a Palestinian national authority there. Meanwhile, a Palestinian self-government will be installed in the Palestinian territories that will remain under occupation. The Palestintans living in holy Jerusalem will take part in the elections. Arab and Islamic institutions, as well as Christian holy places, will be safeguarded in Jerusalem. Moreover, the people displaced since 1967 will be repatriated within the context of a single entity, a single Palestinian authority, and important general elections. The most important component of the agreement is not the provision stating that the Israelis will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, but rather the acknowledgement that the jurisdiction of the Palestinian authority covers all occupied Palestinian territories. This agreement is not comprehensive. However, it is part of an interim phase linked to the final status negotiations, in which there will be a discussion of basic and substantive issues pertaining to the future of our people and nation, such as holy Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and borders. This is enshrined in the declaration of principles. The attainment of a final solution is contingent upon the resolution of these issues. As for the comprehensive solution, it is attained only when solutions on all Arab tracks are reached.

This interim measure only realizes a small part of our rights pending the attainment of comprehensive solution on all Arab fronts. This requires that joint Arab action formulas, particularly among the five Arab states [concerned with the peace process], be promoted in the interest of all in order to ensure the dismantling of the Israeli occupation of our territories, including the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Jordanian territories, in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dear brothers: The current agreement on the declaration of principles governing the interim phase, which signed at the White House by the cosponsors of the peace conference through U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Kozyrev under the patronage of President Clinton, will be subject to thorough discussions. Moreover, the final solution is contingent upon withdrawal from all occupied territories, and also upon the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which must apply to outstanding major issues, the foremost of which are the issues of holy Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and borders. This only serves to show the complexities governing the Palestinian track, as well as the difficult and booby-trapped phases it has to cope with. This also shows a distinct difference between our Palestinian track and other Arab tracks. This complexity and this distinctness have something to do with the thorny issues embedded within the Palestine question. It is also connected with the interim period and the final solution.

We therefore welcome the Arab positions stated by some Arab brothers, including the statement issued by the ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council. During my visit to Oman, His Majesty Sultan Qabus informed me of the efforts his majesty the custod an of the two holy mosques [Saudi Arabian King Fahd] made to help issue that statement and I thank him for that. The statement emphasizes that the final and just settlement is closely linked with total withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Holy Jerusalem, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. These stands reflect the conscience of our nation and its refusal to consider this first-step agreement as a final solution. These stands also show that the Arabs are resolute that the comprehensive and just peace can only be achieved when all steps of the final solutions are applied, on all tracks and in accordance with the foundations and resolutions of international legitimacy. This has been underlined by King Hassan, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President Ali Kafi, President al-Asad, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, President al-Bashir, and the brother Arab leaders.

We hope that this esteemed meeting of yours will confirm these positions to support your brothers in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan in their adherence to their legitimate rights, just objectives, and their sacred places in Palestine and Holy Jerusalem. This subject was discussed and emphasized in all our meetings with Maghreb states, Jordan, Oman, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, the Jerusalem Committee

chaired by His Majesty King Hassan, the Islamic Summit chairman Abdou Diouf, and the Nonaligned Movement chairman Suharto.

Brothers: At this historic juncture, our Arab nation needs to put the past, with all its agony and pain, behind it and give precedence to overarching interests in order to enable us to tackle the current and future challenges, to become stronger and more united, and to help our nation deal wisely and courageously with the new world, which is forming now, and ensure that its adverse effects will not be at the expense of our peoples and future generations.

As we fight today one of our hardest Palestinian and Arab battles, we the Palestinian people, who are still struggling to gain their freedom and independence, look toward you to protect our sacred places and rights and prevent any singlehanded performance that threatens the interests and objectives of each one of us.

The Palestine question has been and continues to be the core of the strategic pan-Arab security. It is the constant focus of Arab attention and the symbol of our nation's persistent struggle in modern history for its dignity and pride. Our people will continue to look toward its nation to help regain and exercise their national and political rights to freedom and sovereignty, and to help in building and laying the foundations for the political, economic, and cultural independence.

Brothers, the current situation, with the possibilities it involves, calls upon us to engage in all forms of coordination and common Arab action. In this regard, we will work side by side with our brothers in Jordan to consolidate our cohesion and upgrade our coordination to the highest level. We will also seek to maintain the unity of action with the sisterly Arab countries engaged in the peace process, particularly the brothers in Syria and Lebanon, appreciating their cohesion and solidarity with our people in their bitter conflict. And this is what His Excellency President al-Asad to me. They are fully aware that the steps toward a final solution still have a long way to go, that there is an increasing need to reinforce our coordination, and that the need for this will further increase when there is a chance to achieve a progress in one of the tracks in the peace process.

At this decisive turning point in the history of our sacred national cause, I must pay tribute to the martyrs of our people and nation, who sacrificed their souls and extended their bodies as a strong bridge of love, faithfulness, and sacrifices so that our people will cross, on the path of victory—God willing—to their homeland in order to set up their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The land of Palestine is mixed with rivers of blood sacrificed by the martyrs of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the sisterly Gulf states, the Arab Maghreb countries, without exception, and all the Arab and Islamic countries—in fact, the blood of all those who love freedom and who are keen to protect the holy places.

I remember them all, without exception, with respect and honor, and say that their blood was not sacrificed in vain. I would like also to greet from this Arab platform—of which we are all proud—all our heroic detainees in the occupation jails; our valiant wounded; the deportees who were unjustly and through aggression expelled from their sacred homeland; the brave fugitives; the mothers of the martyrs, prisoners, detainees, and wounded; the cubs; the flowers; the old men; the stone-throwing children; and all our strugglers in all positions of jihad inside and outside the homeland. I greet them all and send them our love, appreciation, and respect.

We look forward to the future with hope and confidence, relying on our glorious nation, its potentials, capabilities, influence, and cadres, which, God willing, will contribute, together with us, to build the edifice of peace on the land of peace, the sacred land of peace, the destination of the midnight journey of our Arab prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him, and the nativity of Christ, peace be upon him.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We will, without doubt, help our messengers and those who believe, both in this world's life, and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verses]

Thank you, and I greet you. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Kuwaiti Minister on Accord, Iraq

NC2009152993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir has stated that the agreement on principles signed by the Palestinians and Israel is the first step and we hope that it will lead to all that we desire, that is the implementation of the Security Council resolutions that concern the occupied territories and holy Jerusalem.

In statements he made following the morning session held by the Arab League Council today, he said that his country is asking Iraq to comply with international legitimacy and its resolutions, noting that there is no hostility between Kuwait and the Iraqi people and that the hostility is with the Iraqi regime.

Regarding Iraq's request to discuss the issue of the frozen Iraqi assets in some Arab countries, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: The Arab League does not have the prerogative of discussing a resolution made by the Security Council, therefore this issue was not discussed in the council's meetings.

In reply to a question about Kuwaiti opposition to extending aid to the Palestinians, he said: We should

differentiate between Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinians. He added that nobody has sent a request on this issue to his country.

Regarding Kuwait's reservations about extending material aid to the Palestinian intifadah, he said: We support the Palestinian people as a whole. There is a difference between the Palestinian people and the PLO regarding the policy toward Kuwait. Hence we are with the Palestinian people and support them as much as we can.

Council Admits Comoros, Praises Libya

NC2009183993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1758 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Council has agreed to admit the Comoros as the 22d member of the League. The Comoros submitted a request to join the Arab League and the Secretariat prepared a memorandum that was discussed at the council's meetings today.

In the meantime, the Arab League Council reiterated its support for the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in regaining its three islands: Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. The council urged Iran to use dialogue and respond to the UAE's efforts to settle the issue peacefully.

The council praised Libya's stand on dealing with the Libyan-Western crisis. It asked the secretary general to conduct the necessary ('contacts) with the United States, Britain, France, and the United Nations to find a peaceful solution for the Lockerbie crisis and not to escalate sanctions on Libya.

Palestinian Affairs

Opposition Groups To Hold National Conference

JN2109103793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Sep 93 p 29

[By Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Text] The meeting held by the 10 Palestinian factions in Syria on Thursday [16 September], which lasted approximately five hours, ended with three proposals. The meeting started out with self-criticism, admonitions, and accusations.

The first proposal, prominently adopted by Fatah-the Uprising, stressed the need to replace the current Palestinian leadership and establish a new PLO on new bases.

The second proposal, supported by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], urged the formation of a wide national front comprising all factions and personalities opposed to the peace settlement, similar to the Algerian National Salvation Front. This proposal, however, met with severe opposition because it sought to "deflate the opposition", and take a position of negative neutrality toward the current state of affairs.

Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], one of the 10 factions enjoying wide popular support, showed a tendency toward holding a national conference soon to define a political formula under which future action would be carried out.

Muhammad Nazzal, representative of Hamas in Jordan, who attended the Syria meeting, asserted that Hamas is earnestly working to hold a national conference comprising the opposition forces as soon as possible in order to crystallize a specific and clear action formula in consultation with the leaders of Hamas.

Informed sources told AL-DUSTUR that the 10 factions' meeting was attended by Musa Abu-Marzuq, Muhammad Nazzal, and Mustafa al-Liddawi from Hamas; Fathi al-Shaqaqi and Bashir Nafi' from the Islamic Jihad Movement; Abu-'Ali Mustafa and Ahmad Fu'ad from the PFLP; Sulayman 'Abd-al-Hadi and Fahd Sulayman from the DFLP; 'Isam al-Qadi, Muhammad Khalifah, and Farhan Abu-al-Hayja from al-Sa'iqah [Popular Liberation War Vanguards]; Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar and 'Ali 'Aziz from the Palestine Liberation Front; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; 'Arabi 'Awwad, 'Abdallah al- Nimr, and Abu-al-Qasim from the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party; and Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah and Abu-Fakhir from Fatah-the Uprising.

The first four hours of the meeting witnessed one upmanship, blame, reproof, and questions. Ahmad Jibril, [secretary general] of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], vehemently blamed the DFLP representatives for the interview which Nayif Hawatimah [DFLP secretary general] gave to the Israeli television. Fahd Sulayman said that what happened was unplanned and that Hawatimah was surprised by a group of journalists and did not know that some Israeli television reporters were among them. Most of the 10 factions, however, said they were not convinced by the justifications put forward by the DFLP representatives.

The 10 factions also discussed Iran's position which refused to host an expanded meeting for the opposition factions. Views on the Iranian position varied. Ahmad Jibril explained that Iran was awaiting a specific position by the PFLP and the DFLP on the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement before announcing its refusal or acceptance to host a national conference. Some sources, however, said that the real reason Iran turned down the 10 factions' request is that it fears the political repercussions.

It was obvious during the meeting that the Hamas position was unclear. Hamas remains silent regarding its reaction to the current situation. The conferees came up with a compromise formula setting 30 September as a date for another meeting in which each faction would propose specific plans on the desired shape of the next phase.

The conferees affirmed that the 10 factions' formula no longer meets the needs of this phase, and that this formula should be turned into a wider framework in a bid to form a national front and announce a new leadership.

Informed sources assert that the 10 factions are adopting a political line which is not at all opposed to a peace settlement. These factions wish to develop a formula or a strong bloc in order to confront the [Palestinian-Israeli] plan and create a political conflict designed only to win the masses' support. These sources added that the battle is one of winning popular support in the occupied territories, and that the opposition's greater burden should be embodied on the ground, depending on the political weight carried by each faction as a result of historical experience.

AL-DUSTUR has learned from these sources that the opposition factions will hold a national conference in October either in Yemen or Syria, which have both welcomed it on their territory. Those who called for such a conference believe that what happened was not the end of an era and that it is possible to regain the initiative. Therefore, Hamas in particular emphasizes that it will work along two lines—political and military—against occupation. Hamas also stressed the need to avoid civil war in the occupied territories.

With regard to other factions, such as the PFLP and the DFLP, the sources said that they may join the self-rule institutions in the near future despite their declared rejection!

The situation of the Palestinian opposition, in light of tension in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, has not yet calmed down; there are frequent proposals amid successive meetings and statements calling for a national conference whose shape and political formula are unclear, and whose objective is to reject the current phase. What will the opposition offer to its supporters? Everyone is watchful, and the rejectionists are waiting impatiently.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Condemns 'Treasonous' Accord

JN2009195093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], made a statement to international news agencies this evening on the treasonous agreement 'Arafat has endorsed with the Zionist enemy. He said: Through his endorsement of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and his recognition of the Zionist enemy, 'Arafat has agreed to work to crush the intifadah and pursue intifadah activists. He is attempting to pass the test administered by the terrorist Rabin and the U.S. Administration.

Ahmad Jibril added: Our people inside the occupied territories have been presented with two choices: Either to support us, or to support 'Arafat. We have achieved positive results, particularly since the people have responded favorably to us, rather than to 'Arafat. As for our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, they do not believe that the plan 'Arafat and Rabin endorsed will bring peace. Hence, our people categorically reject this plan. This plan, or agreement, will never realize even the minimum rights demanded by our people, such as the right of return, the right to self-determination, and the restoration of Jerusalem. None of these issues are addressed in the provisions of the agreement.

In his statement to international news agencies, Ahmad Jibril went on to say: Rabin showed no reluctance when he said in Cairo yesterday that 'Arafat has been put to the test. If he passes the test in Gaza and Jericho, we might give him other things. This means that if 'Arafat manages to suppress the intifadah, we will take an additional step. But, if he fails in this endeavor, we will stop and move backward. This was Rabin's argument.

Hamas Denies Reports on Sanaa Meeting, Elections

JN2009114393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 93 p 24

[Text] Amman—A responsible source at the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denied reports on a meeting between Hamas and Yasir 'Arafat in Yemen. The source accused 'Arafat's leadership of disseminating such reports with the aim of alleviating its isolation and popular indignation in the wake of 'Arafat's recognition of the enemy state and his signing of the ill-omened Gaza-Jericho accord.

The source also denied a statement attributed to Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's adviser, in which he said Hamas will participate in the self-rule elections. The source dismissed the report as baseless, stressing that Hamas "rejects the self-rule and will boycott any elections connected with it."

DFLP, PFLP Issue Statement on Continuing Intifadah

NC1909174193 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 19 (AFP)—Two radical Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO peace pact with Israel joined forces Sunday [19 September] and urged Palestinians to continue the six-year-old uprising against the Jewish state, Palestinian sources said.

The Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) issued a joint statement calling themselves the National Leadership of the Intifadah and urged Palestinians to pursue the anti-Israel revolt.

The PFLP and DFLP were previously grouped with Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction and the ex-communist

People's Party, which backs the peace deal, in a Unified Leadership of the Intifadah.

The unified leadership failed to issue its usual monthly statement at the beginning of September after Israel and 'Arafat's PLO struck a deal of mutual recognition paving the way for the autonomy accord.

In the statement released Sunday, the new leadership charged that the agreement on autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho was a sellout.

"The agreement reached between a section of the PLO and the Zionist enemy does not satisfy even the minimum (Palestinian) demands," the statement received by AFP said.

"It runs contrary to Palestinian national rights and can in no way justify an end to our fight ... the intifadah will continue as long as our land remains occupied," it said.

But it called on Palestinians "to avoid as much as possible internal friction and to aim all the operations against the forces of occupation and (Jewish) settlers."

PFLP Leader Urges Continued Struggle

JN2009174593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 20 Sep (SANA)—Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], the deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] urged all nationalist and Islamic forces and factions and all those opposed to Gaza-Jericho agreement to join the National Leadership of the Intifadah and to continue to struggle against occupation as one body toward return [to Palestine], self-determination, and the Palestinian state.

Commenting on intifadah statement No. 98, issued in Jerusalem, the capital, Mustafa said in a press statement today that this step demonstrates the process of separation between nationalist forces that adhere to the national program and the intifadah until they realize their objective of freedom and independence and Yasir 'Arafat and his team, who are working to end the intifadah.

Positions of Algiers Factions Reported

JN2009150993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Algiers, 20 Sep (SANA)—The three Palestinian factions stationed in Algiers, which oppose the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, reiterated that this agreement is a step toward capitulation and full normalization.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's representative in Algiers said the agreement is a deviation from the PLO program and relinquishes inalienable Palestinian rights.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's representative said the Palestinian-Israeli agreement carries several risks, and is considered a prelude to the liquidation of the Palestinian identity, and will lead to the relinquishment of the Palestinian people's rights. Therefore, efforts should be made to abort this agreement through all means possible.

The Palestine Liberation Front's representative in Algiers emphasized that the agreement is no more than a U.S.-Zionist trap to relinquish the Arab rights, and is a clear attempt to belittle the Palestinian people's rights to return and self-determination.

'Abd-Rabbuh Denies Report on Formation of Government

TA2009165093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

[By Hani 'Arafat]

[Excerpts] Tunis, Ramallah—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, has denied reports on the formation of a Palestinian government, stressing that those reports are baseless and that this issue is premature. He added that any new organizations will be discussed by the Palestine Central Council when it convenes in a short while.

On the convocation of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Jericho, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that this issue has not been discussed yet. He expressed the hope that the upcoming PNC session will be held on the homeland's soil, although this issue has not been a subject of discussion. 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that as far as the PLO is concerned, the priority now is to discuss the practical arrangements for implementing the Palestinian-Israeli accord, achieving the withdrawal, and forming the Palestinian bodies that will assume the task of negotiating over these issues. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli working committees, withdrawal, and the transfer of powers in Gaza and Jericho, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that these committees are supposed to start their work on the issues of withdrawal, the transfer of powers, and elections no later than 13 November 1993.

It is worth noting that Radio Monte Carlo had reported yesterday that work is underway to form a Palestinian government comprising a number of figures, including Yasir 'Abd-Rabouh.

'Arafat Discusses Peace Process, Jerusalem, Arab Ties

AU2009151393 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 20 Sep 93 pp 168-170

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Volkhard Windfuhr "on the special PLO plane"; date not given: "We Will Live Peacefully Side by Side"]

[Text] [Windfuhr] Mr. Chairman, in Washington you shook hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has been your worst opponent so far. Does this now finally mean reconciliation with the Arabs' archenemy?

[Arafat] We have all undertaken this trip to bring real peace to the women and children of Palestine and Israel, and thus also to the peoples in this region. I hope that the future will prove that in Washington we managed to take the first steps toward implementing a real, comprehensive peace.

[Windfuhr] What would this mean in detail?

[Arafat] That I will soon be able to declare the founding of an independent Palestinian state within the framework of a confederation with Jordan.

[Windfuhr] It will probably still be a long way to this goal.

[Arafat] The Palestinians and Israelis, who have the courage to make peace, will manage to cover the distance—no matter how far we have to go.

[Windfuhr] However, many of your compatriots see the limited Palestinian self-administration as a "capitulation to the Zionist enemy." The treaty neither envisages the founding of a Palestinian state nor ensures the future of Arab East Jerusalem. To the fundamentalist Hamas movement [Islamic Resistance Movement] you are a traitor.

[Arafat] These are completely groundless accusations. They can come only from people who have not bothered thoroughly to read the text that we signed in front of the White House. It contains everything that these people allegedly see as missing from the treaty.

[Windfuhr] However, important issues, such as the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland, which is occupied by Israel, are missing.

[Arafat] We will negotiate that with Israel, albeit within two years. However, the important thing is that nothing has been ignored. We watched like a hawk for that.

[Windfuhr] Nevertheless, critics of the preliminary Palestinian-Israeli peace think that the negotiating results are too meager.

[Arafat] In Washington we did not sign a peace treaty in which all the details had already been set down, but only an agreement of principle. We laid the foundation. This is quite a lot for a people whose mere existence has for decades been called into question by Israel. It is unrealistic to want to solve all the contentious issues between ourselves and Israel in one go at this stage.

[Windfuhr] Your enemies accuse you of having made too many concessions without ensuring a minimum of rights for the Palestinians in return.

[Arafat] I do not deny that the agreement does not yield everything we want. But it was the best that could be achieved under the current conditions in the Arab world and within the framework of the new world order.

[Windfuhr] Your opponents also accuse you of making important decisions about crucial national issues as you please without asking the Palestinian people for their opinion.

[Arafat] This accusation is unfounded. The PLO has been authorized to negotiate since 1990. At that time the parliament in exile, the Palestinian National Council, authorized us to negotiate with Israel at the Madrid peace conference about Palestinian self-administration for a transitional period. Nothing else is involved today in Gaza and Jericho.

[Windfuhr] Do you equate the Arab-Israeli dialogue, which began in Madrid and which did not yield particularly great results, with your separate agreement in Washington?

[Arafat] Madrid was the beginning. However, today we have made much more progress. In Gaza and Jericho not only will there be Palestinian self-administration but, in addition, the Israeli Army will withdraw completely from there. Subsequently, the autonomy model will be extended to all of the occupied territories.

[Windfuhr] But Jerusalem remains excluded.

[Arafat] Everything is still being discussed, and no door has been slammed shut. However, a few things have already been set down for Arab East Jerusalem in the current treaty: Thus, its Palestinian population has the right to participate in elections scheduled in the occupied territories for next year. In addition, the sacred Christian and Islamic places in East Jerusalem will be placed under the supervision of a Palestinian authority that has to be established. All this is progress that would have been inconceivable a short time ago.

[Windfuhr] In Washington Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear that Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital "forever."

[Arafat] If he means all of Jerusalem, he is wrong. Even though Rabin is free to wish for the maintenance of the status quo, he cannot rely on the text of the treaty in this. The treaty says that negotiations on the final status of the city will begin in two years.

[Windfuhr] You mean the status of East Jerusalem?

[Arafat] Yes. East Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine, and Jewish West Jerusalem is and remains the capital of Israel, against which there are no objections. Basically, the allegedly insoluble question of Jerusalem can be solved relatively easily. When the time comes, the human brain, that is, we, will certainly find a model that fits Jerusalem. I know one thing for certain: Palestinians and Israelis will live peacefully side by side in the city.

[Windfuhr] The Palestinian transition government in Jericho will have its own police and security forces. What

happens if militant members of the radical Islamic Hamas organization who want to destroy the State of Israel, attack PLO institutions or try to intimidate the people? Will a Palestinian civil war then break out?

['Arafat] No. But whoever violates the law in the administrative sphere of the Palestinian government and challenges us will be taken to task. However, this will not happen. We will take precautions.

[Windfuhr] How—with special units of the newborn Palestinian state?

['Arafat] The Palestinians' new feeling of their own value, for the first time governing themselves, automatically leads to a greater feeling of responsibility for the community. I am appealing to this responsibility. We will find an appropriate framework to ensure that no Palestinian puts himself outside the community.

[Windfuhr] Do you believe that with such appeals you can also reach those extremists who fight for an Islamic Palestine and decry the PLO as godless?

['Arafat] We are all Palestinians, and we have all made the same sacrifices. This ties us together. Of course, I do not have all my compatriots sworn to a certain party or a certain ideology—we respect the opinions of others. I assume that the state of Palestine will be a modern secular democracy. So far, there has always been a majority for that in PLO bodies.

[Windfuhr] Why are you so confident that Israel will really permit the Palestinians to form their own state?

['Arafat] The Palestinian state has long lived within our hearts. We are not precipitating anything. The transitional period, for instance, will last for five years. This is time enough to decide finally on the future of the territories that Israel occupied in 1967—this is something that was guaranteed in the treaty last Monday [13 September].

[Windfuhr] The issue is not only of the Palestinians' desires but a treaty that has to be negotiated with Israel.

['Arafat] This is correct. However, without wanting to anticipate the future, I tell you that the Palestinians will have their own state: side by side with their neighbors Israel and Jordan. This is the logic of history.

[Windfuhr] Syria is angry because it fears that your special agreement with Jerusalem painfully weakens Syria's starting position in its negotiations about the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel occupied.

['Arafat] This fear is unfounded. I know that our Syrian friends have already received several proposals to solve the Golan problem. As far as I know, Syria and Israel will sign a treaty in the near future. The same goes for Lebanon and Jordan.

[Windfuhr] Would a unified Arab front not have been better for these negotiations?

['Arafat] Do not forget: We Palestinians have worked out a partial agreement for a transitional period that will take several years and certainly not an overall Arab-Israeli peace, which would include all the parties involved.

[Windfuhr] Will this ever come about?

['Arafat] As soon as the individual agreements, which Israel is negotiating with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, have been signed, all the Arab states should conclude a common peace treaty with Israel.

[Windfuhr] You are the pioneer now. Who were the Arab statesmen who helped you into the saddle?

['Arafat] The secret negotiations were held upon our own initiative. However, apart from that, many Arab heads of state supported us. Particularly valuable were the secret diplomacy of Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, the support of King Hasan II of Morocco, and the help of Tunisian head of state Ben Ali.

[Windfuhr] In contrast, your reconciliation with the Gulf states still seems to have some problems. Obviously, the oil potentates still resent your pro-Iraqi attitude in the 1990 Gulf War.

['Arafat] Reconciliation is under way. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, for instance, has advocated a special declaration by the foreign ministers of the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council to support our agreements with Israel.

[Windfuhr] Cooperation with the wealthy oil monarchies is vital for you because the autonomy experiment could fail if the people's living conditions do not improve drastically.

['Arafat] I know that economic recovery is a priority. The success of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements and the establishment of a lasting Arab-Israeli peace largely depend on whether our Arab and Islamic brothers, as well as the United States, Europe, and Japan, are willing to provide the means necessary for reconstruction.

[Windfuhr] How much will the world have to pay for the Middle East peace?

['Arafat] I cannot give you any figures; that is the business of the experts. Of course, we Palestinians are also called upon to act ourselves. For instance, we will soon have an efficient fleet of our own planes, and, immediately after the Palestinian government assumes office, we will begin expanding the infrastructure.

[Windfuhr] And when will Yasir 'Arafat return to Palestine?

['Arafat] Very soon.

[Windfuhr] Will the Arabs and Israelis not wage war against each other any more from now on?

['Arafat] I very much hope not. We have embarked upon the path toward peace, and we can no longer turn back. We are facing a difficult period of national reconstruction. Our agreement with Israel is the beacon.

[Windfuhr] Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for this interview.

Comments on Declaration of Principles

TA2009185493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Sep 93 p 4

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Akir] What is the Palestinian leadership's program now in the wake of the signing of the declaration of principles?

['Arafat] We are moving toward the establishment of a national authority on Palestinian land that will begin with the interim stage and end with negotiations over the final stage that will lead to a Palestinian state united in confederation with Jordan.

[Abu-'Akir] When will the interim stage arrangements begin?

['Arafat] Two months after the signing of the declaration of principles, at which time Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho will begin, the Palestinian national authority will be established in those two regions, and the Palestinian flag will be hoisted over them.

[Abu-'Akir] What will happen later?

['Arafat] Elections for the self-government authority will take place within nine months. The residents of the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, will participate in the elections both as candidates and voters. At the same time agreement has been reached to allow all those displaced since 1967 to return.

[Abu-'Akir] When will they be returned?

['Arafat] During the interim stage. A committee has been formed for this purpose to draw up the repatriation arrangements. Its members will be from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel.

[Abu-'Akir] What about the refugees of 1948?

['Arafat] The agreement provides that their final status as well as that of Jerusalem, the settlements, and the borders will be discussed at the beginning of the third year.

[Abu-'Akir] What will be the status of Jerusalem during the interim stage?

['Arafat] Jerusalem will be included in the interim stage arrangements. Its inhabitants will participate in the elections as candidates and voters. Agreement was also reached to safeguard Palestinian institutions and Islamic and Christian religious sites.

[Abu-'Akir] Is there an Israeli commitment that no attempt will be made to impose a new fait accompli in Jerusalem during this stage?

['Arafat] No one can impose a fait accompli. We reached an agreement and no party can impose a fait accompli. The declaration of principles that we reached is a declaration for all Palestinian lands. It seeks to establish a Palestinian authority for an interim Palestinian government on all Palestinian territory.

[Abu-'Akir] The Palestinian opposition believes that your are more optimistic than necessary when talking about national authority over all Palestinian territory.

['Arafat] I am surprised by this question. You are talking with a Yasir 'Arafat who has faced many battles and crises about which he was always optimistic. How can I not be an optimist when I lead the greatest people in the region?

Everyone should know that we realized an important achievement in the agreement. For the first time we established a basis for a final solution at the beginning of the interim solution in the form of the principle of withdrawal. The Israeli Army will pull out from Jericho and the Gaza Strip at first, and we will establish the national authority immediately in those two areas.

[Abu-'Akir] The Palestinian arena is now divided. How do you envision the future of Palestinian relations?

['Arafat] There are differences in viewpoints. This is not division. There is an opposition and we respect it and its viewpoint. Our constitution says that the majority has to respect the minority's view and the minority should abide by the majority's view.

[Abu-'Akir] Are there now any contacts with the opposition?

['Arafat] Of course. We are in continuous contact with all brothers in the opposition. We extend our hand to all so that they will participate with us in shouldering this important responsibility.

'Urayqat on Accord, Cooperation With Jordan

JN2009121193 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1755 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy chairman of the delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Murid Hammad in the studio, carried within "Perspectives" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hammad] You've mentioned international presence. And we've seen the PLO representative at the United Nations meeting with Secretary General Butrus Ghali the other day, has he or the

PLO obtained any assurances that UN troops will be deployed in the occupied territories? Would the Israelis accept such a proposal?

['Urayqat] I think this issue will be subject to negotiations, as the agreement—the declaration of principles—specifies. But it is no secret that it is our first priority—United Nations troops. The president, President 'Arafat, raised this issue with Secretary General Butrus Ghali. And we will introduce our papers or proposal as far the as the UN forces, translating the term international presence within the next nine months.

[Hammad] Many people have criticized the agreement itself as a kind of an open-ended arrangement, where really just like entering into a project that you don't know the final outcome of. Is this true? Do have this feeling that you are entering an engagement that you do not really know what's the final outcome of your endeavor?

['Urayqat] If we read the preamble of the agreement, for the first time since 1967 an Israeli Government accepts that the goal of negotiations is to implement Security Council Resolution 242. Now some people may come to you and say: Well, Resolution 242 is being interpreted in various ways in Israel. That is true. Resolution 242 may have so many Israeli interpretation. But in the end, it has one correct interpretation. It starts with the inadmissibility of acquisition of other people's territory by force. Which means end of occupation, which means withdrawal. Now if we are going to look for loopholes in this agreement, you'll find a lot of loopholes. It's not a perfect agreement in our hand. But the thing as I said is that each article needs to be negotiated. We have to really start working very hard, very seriously in order to create facts on the ground that will translate this agreement into our aspirations. As far as the open-model, I think 242, we have to keep remembering that it has only one correct, one accurate interpretation: withdrawal, Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. There is no other interpretation. It is very specific. We can look at the minutes of the deliberations that led to the passing of Resolution 242, and we will find that 15 nations participated within the Security Council, many nations participated from outside the Security Council and they all had one common idea: land for peace, and the land here is the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories of 1967.

[Hammad] But the other comment that I've heard about the agreement was a very interesting description likening it to the argument of the glass of water that is half-full or half-empty. You've seen it from the half-full side. The half-empty people think that the absence of the crucial issues, such as Jerusalem, for example, or the Jewish settlements or the return of refugees, whatever—these are the issues that will be discussed at the final status negotiations—is a drawback as far the agreement is concerned. Do you share that feeling too?

['Urayqat] We have to remember one thing. This is not a peace agreement. This is not a peace treaty. This is not a final peace agreement. It is a mere declaration of principles. It is an agenda. Now if it were to be the final agreement, I would tell the people we can't accept it. But when we speak of just one first step leading towards permanent status negotiations in a process that may take as well five years, when I look at the issues—major issues—Jerusalem, for instance, no, it will be part of the interim arrangements through elections, people of Jerusalem participating in the elections. And there will be other arrangements within the interim period as far as East Jerusalem is concerned. Now the fate of Jerusalem, east and west, as far as sovereignty is concerned, will be determined in the final status. This is....[pauses] In terms of what Rabin is saying now, I cannot stand guard over Rabin's lips when he says that this is the eternal capital of Israel and so on. I think this is directed toward domestic political consumption. My understanding of the agreement is that Jerusalem is an issue on the table. [passage omitted]

As far as the refugee question is concerned, it is the first time since 1967 that we have a paper here signed by Israel that commits it to negotiate the refugee problems no later than the beginning of the third year of the interim arrangements, and even it says as soon as possible, it could be in six months, it could be one year, but no later than the third year. The same thing applies to the question of settlement. [passage omitted]

[Hammad] What is the next move? What is your next move?

['Urayqat] I think the next move, as was discussed with President 'Arafat in Tunis when he came back from Washington and some members of the Executive Committee, is that now, I think, it is time for our leadership to merge all Palestinian unions and institutions from inside and outside. You have, for instance, a labor union inside, labor union outside. Now, I think, we should have a preparatory committee to join the two in one. The women society, for instance, students, any organizations that have two branches due to the last 26 years of experience, must merge. The second step is that you must have a council or a committee to handle the transfer of authority.

[Hammad] What about the leadership?

['Urayqat] And here we need to have experts. We need to have real experts and know-how people from wherever they are, Palestinians who established banks in the Arab world, Europe, Palestinians who pave roads, Palestinians in construction, Palestinians in the infrastructure development. We need to bring all experts now to really handle this committee of transfer of authorities, whether in health, education, social welfare, security, environment, and various other issues. We need to establish a committee immediately for the return of the displaced persons of 1967. Of course, this needs a lot of work to be done and a lot of preparation to be done. And we need to

be discussing within the next few months. We need a committee for refugees—the 1948 refugees. Yes the question is put on the table in two years from now, or three years, but we need to do our homework we need to do our preparations. We need to have a committee for elections. Elections will take—are supposed to take place less than nine months from now. So we need to prepare the grounds for the elections. I think that the nucleus of the future Palestinian political life must be democracy and elections.

[Hammad] But the time the elections will go on, would the picture be clearer as far as the functions of the elected people and how they will conduct their daily political life?

['Urayqat] Yes I think there will be executive branch, legislative branch, and judicial authority. And I think when we say that upon the inauguration of the council, the Israeli civil administration will be dissolved and the Israeli military agreement will be withdrawn, it means that we are going to have to transfer all authorities to this council. And we have to keep in mind that this is going to be an interim council. But what is important is that we need to establish a committee now to prepare the grounds for the elections, to prepare the grounds for the kind on international supervision, or the international presence as we talked about, security arrangements as far as Palestinian forces coming from the outside to the Palestinian territory. We need to have committees for the major homework to be done between Jordan and the Palestinians now. [passage omitted]

[Hammad] You mentioned the merging of the organs of the Palestinian people, whether in the diaspora or inside the occupied territories. What about the leadership?

['Urayqat] Well, that is an important question. I mean there are two things that happened in the past few weeks. One is Israeli recognition of the PLO—Palestine Liberation Organization—as the representative of the Palestinian people. At the same time, this was matched with resumption of dialogue and contacts between the PLO and the U.S. Government. And we hope that in the next few weeks there will be official recognition with the PLO by the U.S. Administration. So, we really have to separate between this event and the agreement itself. I think the issue, the main significant development that occurred is the recognition, because for 25 years the Israeli governments said we are not going to talk to the PLO simply because this means a Palestinian state, this means return of refugees, this means right to self-determination. And I think they are right. Now once they recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, I think each Israeli knows very well the aims of the PLO: the political identity, the national rights of the Palestinians. So I think this is a real coup, as far the Israeli thinking is concerned. This is a major development. And compared to the agreement, I think the agreement cannot match in any way the development. So as far the leadership is concerned, I think that President 'Arafat will be in the Palestinian land, our national soil, no later than 1 January 1994.

[Hammad] Would that include some kind of a cabinet, a leadership council, ministers of....

['Urayqat, interrupting] I think it is not going to be ministers or government. It is going to be, as I said, a committee, it is going to be a council. I think the PLO Executive Committee would remain in power. The institutions of the PLO would remain. But now what you have? You have now the merger between the Palestinian people, because the PLO means unity of the Palestinian people. Now for the past 26 years, Palestinians who lived in the occupied territories were barred from the National Council, the Central Council, the Executive Committee. Now what we will witness in the next few months is Palestinians from the occupied territories assigning or being members of the National Council, members of the Central Council, members of the PLO Executive Committee. I think things will never be the same as far as the integration or the merger of the Palestinian people from the inside and outside in the institutions. But as far the institutions of the PLO, I think they would remain in force and the same thing....

[Hammad, interrupting] Even after a final peace agreement is signed?

['Urayqat] That is different. We are talking now about interim period. See after the permanent status, I think we'll have a Palestinian state. We are going to have a full Palestinian state. This, in my opinion, is going to happen and materialize no later than five years from today.

[Hammad] Despite the opposition from the United States, for example, or Israel?

['Urayqat] I do not think....[pauses] Those who look at the agreement very carefully, those who look at the development of the recognition of the PLO very carefully do understand that when President 'Arafat has met in Washington and the way he was met, when Rabin recognizes the PLO, they know that the PLO translates to a Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

[Hammad] What about coordination with Jordan? President 'Arafat will be here within the next two days—on Monday [20 September]. He will meet his majesty the king. Would this mean a new era of cooperation and coordination with Jordan?

['Urayqat] Let me be frank on this. I just want to say something. I think that Jordan in the past 22 months has sacrificed a lot. They provided an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation, which meant in a way sacrificing their own sovereignty, to have a joint delegation. I think from the first meeting we had with the Jordanian delegation and his majesty the king, they told us very frankly: We are here to facilitate anything that will enable you to acquire your national identity. And that did that. I think many have forgotten in the past 22 months that Jordan has occupied land, that Jordan had its own problems,

that Jordan had reached this agenda they signed a day after we signed, a year ago and they waited for us to sign. So we really appreciate very much everything that Jordan did in the past 22 months.

[Hammad] The reason why I asked this question is....

['Urayqat, interrupting] Let me put it very frankly, when we speak of cooperation and coordination, we speak of instruments. When you coordinate something, you must have a strategy—to coordinate in order to implement, in order to achieve. Now I think the coordination between us and Jordan must enter new horizons. These horizons must be based on interests. Now I do not think the very special relationship between the people of Jordan and the people of Palestinian consists of making leaders or parliaments. It is the making of people, which is a unique kind of experience based on social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects. I think now with this agreement, the mutual dependency between us the Jordanians had increased more than any time before. But what I am saying now is that we need to apply our scientific thinking. We need to define our own interests and our mutual interests. We need to address the real issues, because in each article, due to the special relationships, due to geography, due to economy, due to the Palestinian interests in the future, we need now to start disengaging from the Israelis and to move towards the east. Now many people, I heard, in Jordan many people have expressed fears about movement of currencies, movement of this, and you know that this many cause so many fears and difficulties, and we have to address it very openly and frankly about these sensitivities. I do not think there are bases for such fears and such sensitivities. We need each other economically. I can't go to the West. I am no match. I can't do that. I don't belong there. For 26 years we have defied and fought this occupation in order for the day to come when we could move back to where we belong, to the Arab world, and specifically to Jordan. If we want to move any of our products in the future, we have to go through Jordan. If we are going to have any joint projects in the future, whether electricity, whether water, whether boundaries, whether security, Jordan is there. So we have to take...[pauses] I really hope that President 'Arafat and King Husayn on Monday will start to take our coordination towards new horizons. And before anything else, we need to put a strategy for what we want both to achieve. [passage omitted]

Fatah's Military Arm Calls Halt to Operations

TA2109084393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Fatah's military arm in northern Judaea and Samaria yesterday announced the cessation of its military operations during the interim period, until Israel's true intentions and its willingness to pull out of the territories become clear. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that a Fatah emissary made this announcement at a large support rally in the village of Bal'a in the Tulkarm area. The emissary, whose face was covered, voiced support for Yasir 'Arafat and denounced Prime Minister Rabin's statements at the signing ceremony in Washington.

PLO Calls for End to Celebrations, Marches in Gaza

TA2009160193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Sep 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Gaza—The Gaza Strip political guidance committee issued a statement yesterday in which it called for ending all celebrations and marches in support of the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the Palestinian leadership. The statement, titled "The Masses Have Spoken," noted that this call was made on the basis of directions and instructions by the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, which demanded that it be implemented as of today, 20 September. [passage omitted]

Central Council To Meet in Tunis This Month

NC1909105093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 19 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, has stated that the Palestinian Central Council [PCC] will convene in Tunis at the end of September.

In a statement today, Abu-Mazin said the 109-member PCC, which acts as a liaison between the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council, will discuss the future horizons of Palestinian action in light of the developments in the peace process. It will also discuss and approve the declaration of principles agreement between Israel and the PLO and the mutual recognition documents.

Editorial Urges Israel, Arabs To Ease Measures

TA2009200593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Sep 93 p 11

[Editorial: "What Now After the Agreement?"]

[Text] Many observers as well as sectors of the population in the occupied territories are asking: What now after the agreement? This question is being posed by both supporters and opponents of the Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement.

Evidently, the agreement was not an aim in itself. Moreover, although the media fanfare surrounding the signing ceremony reflected international satisfaction and the belief that this is the end, or the beginning of the end, of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, that fanfare could not cover up the suffering of the residents in all fields. This suffering must be quickly stopped today rather than tomorrow.

There is still a lot to be done in order to bring about a climate whereby the residents will feel that they have

entered into a stage that is different from previous ones. There are a large number of prisoners who are supposed to be released. Also, the residents expect that deportees and administrative detainees who have spent time in jail or detention will obtain their freedom.

The residents are justly asking: How does the peace agreement conform with the manifestations of closure and roadblocks that isolate the West Bank and Gaza Strip and which have led to the misery and unemployment of thousands of Palestinian families, who have lost the source of their livelihood for successive months? And what will be the fate of Palestinian agricultural and industrial produce, which is finding the export doors closed wherever it turns?

Some of the things that also amaze the residents are the new measures announced by some fraternal countries with respect to the entry of West Bank and Gaza Strip residents to their territory. Those countries are sending back the residents to the West Bank for precautionary reasons that have yet to materialize. This, at a time when Palestinian residents expect their Arab brothers to ease, not increase or intensify, previous measures.

There are many phenomena and manifestations that contradict the spirit and climate of peace and which annoy the residents in all fields and on various levels. Since the interim agreement is a change, everyone hopes that it will be a positive change that will gradually involve all sectors of the population without exception and remove the many grievances that they have endured over more than a quarter century of occupation.

Egypt

Al-Asad To Visit 22 Sep, Meet Mubarak on Peace

NC2109082193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will arrive in Alexandria on Wednesday [22 September] on a two-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of his brother President Husni Mubarak. The two presidents will hold talks on ways to advance the peace process in the Middle East and the close fraternal ties between Egypt and Syria.

President al-Asad's visit, which was scheduled several weeks ago, follows a visit to Egypt by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. During his visit on Sunday, Rabin and President Mubarak discussed boosting the peace process on all tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles and the agreement on the agenda for the Jordanian-Israeli declaration of principles.

Opposition Party Supports Israeli-PLO Agreement

NC2009184693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—The National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party has voiced its support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the mutual recognition between the two sides as a first stage that requires serious work to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement.

In a statement issued today on the agreement, the party noted the importance of Palestinian national unity, democratic decisionmaking within the PLO, the need to handle differences and dialogue by democratic means, and the rejection of any use of violence and counterviolence to preserve the Palestinian interests. The party urged all Palestinian factions to reject inter-Palestinian fighting under any circumstances. The party warned against the campaign that seeks to raise suspicions among the Palestinians and the Arab people, adding that these suspicions seek to weaken the Palestinian and Arab efforts needed to fully regain the Palestinian people's national rights and face U.S.-Israeli continuous pressure.

The party called on the Egyptian and Arab peoples to continue their support for Syria and Lebanon to liberate the Golan and south Lebanon, thus attaining a just and comprehensive peace.

Interior Minister Outlines New Security Strategy

NC2009145093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has issued instructions to implement a new security strategy based on taking the initiative, maintaining a constant security presence, attacking all terrorist hideouts, and listing all fugitive terrorists before arresting them.

The interior minister said the security forces must move fast in accordance with well-studied plans. He noted that they should also complete their planned database on all terrorist organizations with the aim of nipping them in the bud.

During a meeting today with assistants to the interior minister and senior Public Security officials, al-Alfi said the public are now helping the police. They understand the seriousness of terrorism, which intimidates and kills innocent people and threatens the economy.

Al-Alfi said the Egyptian public is law-abiding and wants the state to confront terrorism firmly and strongly to preserve the nation's history and civilization.

Al-Alfi praised all the national forces and asserted that the political leadership has confidence in the security forces' ability to destroy terrorism and achieve stability.

Noting that the police are capable of a comprehensive and decisive confrontation, he said there will soon be campaigns involving raids against terrorist dens. He added that various police specialists are drawing up plans for a permanent and relentless security presence. [passage omitted]

The interior minister issued instructions to form a higher committee of officials from the State Security, Public Security, Central Security, and detective agencies. The committee would coordinate with security directors in the governorates to carry out daily intensive raids on criminal dens and areas used as terrorist hideouts. Any plantation that could be used for such hideouts will also be searched, he said. [passage omitted]

Al-Alfi announced that he will punish those who show negligence in using their personal arms against individuals who fire on citizens, explaining that the law has provisions governing the use of arms. He stressed that he will permit no hesitation in exchanging fire with the terrorists. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Open Fire at Boat on Nile in Asyut

NC1809161293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—At 0700 today, gunmen opened fire on a Nile boat that was sailing southbound on the Nile near a banana plantation in Markaz Abu-Tij in Asyut.

Security sources noted that none of the boat's passengers were injured. The boat continued its journey after the necessary legal measures were taken.

The state security organs are investigating the incident to uncover its dimensions and circumstances.

'Terrorists' Kill Policeman, School's Deputy Director

NC2109084593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Asyut, 21 Sep (MENA)—Policeman Muhammad 'Ali from the State Security Intelligence Service force in the Asyut Governorate was martyred today when unidentified men fired at him on his way to work in Shutab near Asyut. The security forces surrounded the area and started searching for the criminals, who fled.

Unidentified men today fired at the Dayrut Secondary Military School deputy director. He died instantly. The criminals fled. Security agency commands in Asyut went to the scene and forces surrounded the area to search for the criminals. The Prosecution Office has been notified and is investigating. It ordered the security agencies to apprehend the criminals and the arms the terrorists used to commit the crimes soon.

Attempted Bombing of Security Directorate Denied

NC2109105393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry has denied a report by an Arab newspaper yesterday that the Egyptian security agencies foiled an attempt to bomb Cairo's Security Directorate. The source stressed that this report is groundless and noted that fabrication of certain reports such as bombing of the Cairo Security Directorate building may give the report importance but it mars the credibility of the paper to its readers. The source urged Arab newspaper correspondents in Cairo to be accurate in writing the reports they send to their newspapers and to contact the Interior Ministry to verify their reports.

Morocco

Basri Holds News Conference on Election Results

LD2009152393 Rabat MAP in English 1241 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 20 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri presented here Saturday [18 September] to the national and foreign press the results of the indirect parliamentary elections held on Friday to elect representatives of professional chambers, communal councils and wage earners.

The minister said the participation rate in these elections was very high because the number of voters is limited and because the voters perfectly know the candidates.

The high number of candidates running for each seat (an average of ten candidates among professional chambers and five among communal councils) is evidence that businessmen, professionals and producers want to defend their political ideas and the interest of the socio-professional category they represent.

The participation rate in the Sahara was very high and was close to 100 percent in some Saharan provinces owing to the feeling of tribal and family belonging, he said.

On the tasks of the six year parliament, Basri said the concerns of the Moroccan people are in the center of the programs of political parties that freely expressed, during the run-ups to the elections, their opinions on all that concern the life of the nation.

Basri added that all political trends are represented in the parliament where they can debate all the problems remotely or closely related to the Moroccan people. But no one can foresee the quantity nor the quality of what will be discussed by the house.

Regarding the next government, Basri said that pursuant to the Constitution King Hassan II, who is the only authority empowered with designating the governmental team, will appoint those he deems most adequate to materialize the expectations of the population and defend the supreme interests of the nation.

On the fact that the results of the September 17 elections are contradictory in several provinces to those of June 25 elections concerning the number of seats obtained by the different political trends, Basri explained that indirect elections are of particular character and have involved five electoral colleges that have specificities proper to the nature of the concerned colleges, to the rules of their interior balloting, their own concerns and to their insights.

Consequently, Basri explained, the voters take into account professional or territorial belonging rather than political subscription. The attitude derives from the very essence of indirect elections, he remarked.

The minister of the interior and information explained the gap between the results of the June 25 elections and those of last Friday by the fact that the two pollings have not the same character nor the same goals. He specified that the first elections involved some 12 million voters while the second ones concern limited colleges which have their motivations proper.

On the possibility of a changing the political map after the holding of by-elections in constituencies where the results of June 25 were canceled, the minister said the number of concerned constituencies would not allow a modification of the data entailed by the two pollings.

He recalled that citizens and candidates are entitled to challenge the results and that the Supreme Court Constitutional Chamber rules on the irregularity of an election. The government has a six month deadline to organize by-elections.

On the setting up of coalitions to form a majority at the parliament and pave the way to form a government,

Driss Basri said the available election results enable every one to imagine the possible formation of the majority as one chooses and the formation of coalitions is possible, for no political party got a decisive majority.

To a question on interference cases in the elections reported by some papers and the term 'normally' held canvassing referred to in the preliminary declaration to the press conference, the minister explained that the press is free to run anything it sees as well grounded stressing that all pollings in Morocco were held in honesty, discipline, serenity and transparency.

He added that allegations in this respect are groundless and the balloting was conducted in the presence of the candidates or their delegates and representatives of all political trends and unions who contributed in the working out of reports and minutes.

However, those who think they have anything to challenge can do it with the Constitutional Chamber in accordance with enforced law, the minister said highlighting that the elections were thoroughly organized and control was carried out daily by the National Commission on Elections and by provincial commissions.

To a question on why the party of Shura and Istiqlal was the only one not to have benefitted from the subsidies allotted to political parties during consultations, Driss Basri recalled the party was given time through the national tv and radio for canvassing, but could not be alloted any subsidy for it was not represented in the latest House of Representatives.

Asked whether the new government will be constituted before the opening session of the parliament by mid October or whether it will be constituted later on in accordance with the deadline necessary to annulment requests, the minister precised that annulment requests will not delay the constitution of the new government.

On dissensions within political parties, the minister said the government is not concerned over these dissensions and has never interfered in parties' internal affairs and has rather supported all the parties without any discrimination.

Regarding the representation at the parliament of Moroccan nationals residing abroad, Basri said they will be represented within an assembly which will take into account the different categories they belong to and their geographical distribution in hosting countries. The Moroccan legislation did not provide for their representation at the parliament to safeguard their interests, he specified.

Filali Denies Envoys Relaying Messages on Rabin Visit

LD2009151893 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sep. 20 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali flatly denied the news published by an Arab daily according to which Moroccan emissaries are sent to Arab heads of state with messages on the recent visit of Israeli premier to Morocco.

He termed the information as "groundless" and that there is no "Moroccan move in this respect".

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar' denied last week-end any Moroccan mediation between Syria and Israel.

An Arab daily had earlier announced that Moroccan envoys would convey messages from King Hassan II to some Arab heads of state including President Hafiz Al-Asad of Syria.

The Moroccan foreign minister attended here the proceedings of the seven member committee meeting on the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and some Western countries.

Sudan

RCC Official on War in South, U.S. Terrorism Charge

EA2009214293 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], speaking on behalf of the chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, this morning addressed the procession mounted by the sons of the southern states in support of the government's decisions and policies towards bringing about peace and in condemnation of the U.S. policies toward the country. Lt. Col. Salah al-Din Karrar said the procession was significant in many ways and was an expression of the unity of the sons of Sudan both from the north and the south. He said this was the unity the colonialists feared.

He stressed the need for the unity of the national ranks, saying that ever since its eruption the revolution had been committed to bringing about peace in the country. Lt. Col. Salah al-Din Karrar added that we must learn the lesson the war in the south has taught us for it has done nothing but increase our determination to bring about peace.

He said Sudan's inclusion on the list of states which America was alleging sponsored terrorism was part and parcel of the conspiracy against Sudan. Lt. Col. Karrar said this sort of action would not deter the country from forging ahead to implement its planned objectives.

Technical Cooperation Accord Signed With Iraq

AB2009220693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Sep (SUNA)—The Sudan and Iraq signed on Monday [20 September] a joint cooperation agreement on technical and administrative work in the two countries. Minister of Interior Brigadier 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn signed on behalf of Sudan while the Iraqi interior minister signed for Iraq.

Brigadier Husayn, who has concluded visits to Iraq and Jordan, told SUNA that he briefed the officials in the two countries on the dimensions of the American decision on placing Sudan on the list of the so-called terrorist states. He discussed with the officials in the two countries the Palestinian problem's settlement and current Arab situation.

Kuwait

Minister Comments on Sale of Oil to Lebanon

LD2109091293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Sep (KUNA)—In a statement published here today, Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said that during the visit of a Lebanese working delegation to Kuwait in the course of the next few weeks understanding will be reached on the definition of technical specifications and the quantities of oil needed to be shipped to Lebanon. In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-AMM', al-Baghli added that the question of nominating the ports of loading and unloading in both countries will be discussed, too. The minister said money due to be paid by Lebanon to Kuwait for the purchase of oil will be deposited with the Lebanese Central Bank in U.S. dollars, plus the current interest, for a period of one year. After that the Lebanese Government will pay Kuwait the amounts due to it. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister al-Sabah To Visit London

LD2009094193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Sep (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister will today leave for London after the meeting of the Arab League Council, which is currently being held in Cairo. Shaykh al-Sabah will hold talks in London with a number of senior British Government officials followed by a visit to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly meeting. [passage omitted]

Official Reaffirms Support for Peace Moves

LD2009111393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1032 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Sep (KUNA)—An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has stressed the importance of the international efforts being made to support the Middle east peace process. This statement was made to KUNA by a prominent official in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, who wished to remain anonymous, when commenting on a tour by an EEC delegation of the Gulf region to discuss the possibility of increasing the assistance allocated for development purposes in the occupied territories. The source reaffirmed Kuwait's support for the peace process in the Middle East in the light of the recently concluded Israeli-Palestinian agreement as a first step toward the realization of just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

EEC Delegation Arrives for Talks on Gaza-Jericho

LD2109101693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Sep (KUNA)—The EEC delegation led by Erik Derycke, Belgian minister of state for cooperation and development, arrived here today on a brief visit to the State of Kuwait during which the delegation will hold talks regarding the EEC"s plan to assist the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and Israel. The delegation is scheduled to hold talks with his highness the amir; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry; and the ambassadors of the member states of the EEC to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Holds Weekly Session

LD2009213593 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 20, SPA—The Saudi Council of Ministers, which held its weekly regular session under the chairmanship of Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard at al-Salam Palace here this afternoon, expressed deep satisfaction over the completion of the organizational steps promised by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud for his truehearted people.

The council expressed delight that all basic systems were issued in the best shape under the umbrella of the Islamic teachings and congratulated the members of regions' councils on the occasion of the dear trust bestowed upon them by King Fahd.

Information Minister 'Ali Bin-Hasan al-Sha'ir told the Saudi Press Agency that at the outset of the meeting, Crown Prince 'Abdallah paid rich tributes to King Fahd for the successful measures he made on domestic regulations issued in consecutive royal decrees concerning the Shoura Council, the basic system of government and the system of regions and finally, the formation of the regions councils.

The council also reviewed a report on the most important political, security and economic developments of Arab and international arenas and followed-up with much concern what is going on in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. It decided that the Saudi political and humanitarian role will continue for the interest of the oppressed Islamic people as per directives of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

On domestic arena, al-Sha'ir said, the cabinet discussed a number of issues including an item pertaining to organizing of umra [minor pilgrimage] rituals performance for those who come from various Islamic states. It reviewed proposed reconsideration of regulations concerning the treatment of those who [word indistinct] to stay behind. Statements on the matter were made by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and Dr Mahmud Safir. The minister of pilgrimage in this context and in line with the wise directives of King Fahd. [as received]

The council referred what has been discussed to the council's general committee for completion of procedures. The council authorised the minister of justice for discussing the Oman Arabian trade arbitration convention with the justice ministers of the GCC's [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states and decided that the outcome of the debate would be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

The council also agreed that the state would pay the cost of vaccination of the kids of the Saudi students sent on scholarships abroad.

PLO Accord 'Hits Palestine Question in the Heart'

JN2009113893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH wonders how loyal, sincere people who still hold tenaciously to their beliefs and maintain strong links with their surroundings, view what the leadership of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat has done toward a serious national and pan-Arab question—the Palestine question.

In part one of an editorial today signed by "an observer," the paper says: Loyal Arabs, led by the Ba'thists, have viewed the Palestine question as a sacred pan-Arab cause and, along with other Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular, made sincere sacrifices for this cause.

The paper asserts that all struggle slogans, appeals, attitudes, and activities have declared that their aim is the liberation of Palestine, the return of the people who were driven out of their land by force, and liberating the people who are suffering under the military, racist Zionist occupation.

The paper adds that Mr. 'Arafat's accord has hit the Palestine question in the heart and ended, or is about to end, the sacredness of the Palestinian not only at the level of rulers and their quarters but also encompassing large sectors of the masses of the Arab nation.

The paper says: It is a suspect agreement, considering what the Zionists hold in store for the Arabs and Palestinians and all parties that supported and encouraged them, including the godfathers of the solution among well-known Arab quarters. [passage omitted]

Romanian Socialist Labor Party Leader Visits

Ramadan Confers With Verdet

JN1809175793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has affirmed the sons of the homeland are more concerned about the construction and stability of the homeland than foreigners. Foreigners are working to disrupt homelands and ignite fighting to peddle hostile policies and dominate peoples' potentials.

During his reception of Ilie Verdet, leader of the Romanian Socialist Labor Party, and the accompanying delegation, Ramadan said Iraqis under heroic leader President Saddam Husayn will not bow to enemies pursuing dirty polices hostile to human rights, freedom, independence, and progress.

Ilie Verdet voiced greeting from himself, the Romanian Socialist Labor Party and the Romanian people to leader President Saddam Husayn, as well as their admiration for his heroic positions, stressing that Iraqis' adherence to their principles will encourage other peoples to follow suit. Iraqis have become an example of struggle for the sake of principles. He praised the march of construction, which shows Iraq's future will be prosperous and brilliant.

During the meeting, attended by comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Iraq Command Foreign Relations Bureau, the two sides discussed ways to promote relations between the two parties to serve the joint interests of the two friendly countries.

Assembly Speaker, Verdet Meet

JN1909193693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has praised the stands the Romanian Socialist Labor Party and the friendly Romanian people have taken to support the Iraqi leadership and people in their confrontation of the 30-state aggression and the unfair embargo.

During a meeting today with Ilie Verdet, the leader of the Romanian Socialist Labor Party, Salih said that the visit by the party delegation and its noble positions reflect support for right. Salih reaffirmed that the sinful 30-state aggression and the unfair embargo imposed on the lofty Iraqi people targeted the Arab nation's hard base to achieve economic and political objectives in the region and the world at large.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed the dimensions of the sinful 30-state aggression against Iraq, the firm confrontation of this aggression by the Iraqi people, and the experience of jihad and reconstruction spearheaded by leader President Saddam Husayn, noting that despite all the generous sacrifices they have made, the Iraqi people are still capable of continuing to resist colonialist world powers, because they have chosen to remain proud and to cherish their dignity and sublime values, as well.

For his part, the leader of the Romanian Socialist Labor Party renewed his party's firm position of solidarity with the Iraqi people and leadership. He demanded an end to the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq. He said that his visit to Iraq and his talks with Iraqi officials have been fruitful and have shown an identity of views toward international issues of common interest.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Official

JN2009185893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, the official in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau, today received Ilie Verdet, leader of the Romanian Socialist Labor Party, and his delegation.

The two officials discussed bilateral and party ties and ways to improve them in order to strengthen relations

between the two friendly countries and peoples and fulfill their common hopes and interests.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau.

Opposition Reports New Saddam Security Apparatus

NC2009150793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The newspaper AL-WUFAQ, issued by an Iraqi opposition faction in exile, cites informed sources as saying that a new security apparatus has been set up in Baghdad to monitor military intelligence activity.

The new apparatus is chaired by 'Abd-al-Hamid Humud al-Tikriti, tyrant Saddam Husayn's favorite aide.

Regime Said To Uncover Plan To Assassinate Saddam

NC2009172293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Reports from Baghdad say that a group of members of the Tikrit clans, in conjunction with a number of officers, some time ago made an attempt to assassinate Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi regime, along the Auja-Baghdad road. However, the regime's security departments discovered the attempt before it was carried out. The regime sent a large military force to the scene of the incident, where violent clashes and confrontations took place between the two sides. Several members of the clans were killed. The regime's force sustained considerable human casualties and material damage.

Six Killed, 28 Injured in Explosion in Chamchamal

NC1709174493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] A device exploded under a pick-up truck in front of the customs office in Chamchamal this morning. Six citizens were martyred and 28 others were wounded in the explosion. The martyrs included a child called Muhammad Salah Sayyid 'Ali, a young girl called Faymal 'Abdallah 'Arif, and two women.

The authorities, who have started investigating the incident, said the device was made from TNT.

Explosion in Party Building, Casualties Reported

JN1609074493 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] In order to continue the (?momentum) of the blessed Islamic revolution and Jihad in our Islamic Iraq until the fall of the 'Aflaqite, crusader oppression, a group belonging to the Islamic resistance within the past few days placed a bomb at the headquarters of the Ba'th Party in the al-Muwaffaqiyah area in al-Basrah Governorate, south of rebellious Iraq.

Sources of our mujahidin say that the bomb exploded at the set time, killing or wounding those inside the Saddamist den. The explosion also caused damage to the building.

A tense security situation now prevails in al-Basrah Governorate. The regime's henchmen, mercenaries, and security officials are afraid of moving within sight of the citizens. They have changed their residences several times for fear of the mujahidin blows.

Our sources say the faithful people in the Governorate have been distributing revolutionary Islamic leaflets urging the people to rise against the tyrant and his henchmen and end his hostile policy against the Iraqi people and the Muslim peoples in neighboring states.

Students To Bear Costs in Revised Educational System

JN1809185893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers has decided to introduce an educational system under which a student will bear part of his study costs. The system will exempt poor students from costs in accordance with specific rules to encourage them to attend lessons regularly and maintain their scientific superiority.

The Council of Ministers decided to develop the current system of admittance under which the student should be admitted to a college or institute nearest to his place of residence, taking into account the specialty he wants to pursue, and studying the possibility of admittance in accordance with the marks he acquired in his subject of specialty in the first place. Competition will then take place in light of the total score. The subjects of the specialty needed for admittance at each college should also be reconsidered.

The Council of Ministers also decided to study the possibility of opening evening classes at colleges and institutes for students compelled by their circumstances to work in the morning. It decided to develop a system for moral and material incentives, as well as incentives for appointment in the government, for those who complete university study within the scheduled minimum term of study.

Knesset Debate on Agreement With PLO Previewed

Rabin, Peres Comment on Vote

TA2109084093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will consider the vote to be held at the end of the Knesset debate on the agreements with the PLO a vote of confidence in the government. Addressing the Labor Knesset faction, Mr. Rabin said he regretted the threats, provocations, and blunt pronouncements made by Labor members against SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Rabin asked his colleagues to refrain from provoking SHAS and to conduct a matter-of-fact debate. Shim'on Peres said he believes there is no knowing how the religious parties will vote until the last moment. Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said that SHAS has not yet made up its mind and must be allowed to reintegrate into the coalition.

Our correspondent adds that Minister Peres emphasized that the agreements with the PLO do not contain anything secret, either in writing or orally. He disclosed that in the course of the negotiations, the Palestinians sought to discuss the release of security prisoners, but Israel put off such a debate until after the agreements were endorsed by the Knesset plenum.

The opposition parties decided to submit a joint draft resolution to the Knesset expressing opposition to a Palestinian state and to the right of return and demanding to uphold Jerusalem's status.

Interviewed by our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he has no desire to seduce or threaten SHAS. Nevertheless, he said, a majority of 61 Knesset members is a majority to all intents and purposes. A small majority entailing a chance for peace is better than losing that chance because of misgivings over the size of the majority. Peres added that public opinion polls show unprecedented support for the government's moves. A referendum would be an act of folly, because it would exacerbate internal tensions and elicit the intervention of violent Arab groups, the foreign minister asserted.

Party Stands on Accord Detailed

TA2109054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The political debate on the agreement of principles with the PLO will begin later this morning in the Knesset. In his speech, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will announce whether the vote summing up the debate will be a vote of confidence in the government. The debate will last two or three days.

The Likud faction decided not to grant its members freedom of vote. The Likud will ask the Knesset not to turn the vote on the prime minister's statement into a vote of confidence so as to enable SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to vote against the agreement.

The SHAS executive recommended to its Council of Torah Scholars that the faction demand a referendum on the agreement. It appears that if Labor refuses to hold such a referendum, SHAS will not support it. Labor has rejected SHAS' demand. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that a cabinet minister conducting the contacts with SHAS said no promise will be made to it on holding a referendum, either now or in the future. Nevertheless, a few ministers argue that the prime minister does not categorically rule out the possibility of holding a referendum.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur conferred with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef and with Knesset Member [MK] Arye Der'i last night and explained to them the security implications of the agreement with the PLO. Deputy Minister Gur said after the meeting that it had been imperative upon him to refute the half-truths and false threats presented to Rabbi Yosef by members of the opposition and some born-again Jews who are high-ranking officers in the reserves.

Senior sources in the government and the coalition made it clear to SHAS that a vote against the peace agreement would be tantamount to announcing its departure from the coalition. The senior sources warned that such a move would have far-reaching consequences. Labor MK Hagay Merom announced that if SHAS quits the coalition through its vote, he will demand to complete the legislation of the Basic Law on Human Rights at once. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that SHAS' spokesman said in response that such pronouncements were sheer blackmail and would boomerang against the coalition.

Top Labor members are making efforts to convince Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatora [making up the four-member United Torah Jewry Knesset faction] to support the agreement with the PLO. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Ministers Peres, Ben-Eli'ezer, Shahal, and Ramon, as well as Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, are conducting these contacts.

Cabinet Discusses Implementation of Accord

TA2009121493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 93 p A3

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in yesterday's cabinet session that Israel intends to meticulously scrutinize the candidates slated to serve in the Palestinian police force in the autonomy areas in the territories. He emphasized that not everybody will be accepted into the ranks of the local police thus suggesting that wanted men will not be enlisted. Rabin pointed out that

according to the agreement with the PLO, a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee will decide who will serve in the Palestinian police force. [passage omitted]

Rabin said the real test of the agreement with the PLO will be in its implementation, mainly in Gaza and less so in Jericho, which is of secondary importance in the agreement. According to him, the issues that will be discussed in the upcoming negotiations and which will have an impact on the Gaza and Jericho First agreement will be: determining the structure of the autonomy council and the number of its members and deciding on the modalities of the elections and the transfer of powers to the administrative council in five areas: education, health, welfare, tourism, and direct taxation.

The prime minister stressed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will complete its redeployment by the time elections are held in the territories, in about 10 months. Rabin hinted that the PLO is not thrilled about holding elections in the territories but noted that the entire process is based on such elections. It was pointed out in the meeting that elections are mandated by the agreement, that any change would require Israel's agreement, and that the possibility that Israel might forgo them had not been raised. [passage omitted]

Minister Shim'on Shetrit drew the attention of Rabin and the ministers to the fact that 'Arafat uses terms and titles that contravene the Israel-PLO agreement. For example, he uses the terms "independent government" or "temporary government" and the title of "president of independent Palestine." Rabin replied that Israel will see to it that all the sides use the precise terms and titles spelled out in the agreement. He noted that at this stage, 'Arafat is described only as chairman of the PLO and that any other title he attributes to himself is unacceptable to Israel.

Foreign Minister Peres asserted that the PLO was not given any verbal promises and that the agreements signed with it consist only of those papers that will be presented to the Knesset tomorrow for its endorsement and contain no secret appendices. [passage omitted]

Peres Views Prospects for Agreement With Syria

TA2009115893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he knows nothing of American efforts to arrange a meeting between himself and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; however, Peres believes peace with Syria can be negotiated without delay if Syria helps to create the right atmosphere. The foreign minister was speaking at a gathering of Foreign Ministry staff to welcome the Jewish New Year. Interviewed by reporter Jack Katzenell, he said Syria ought to stop encouraging Hizballah because that organization is opposed to peace.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The time has arrived to conduct a negotiations between equals and in an open and normal way. We do not criticize anybody, but we feel that peace must be done in the proper air. We shall do it with full respect toward the Syrians, and the Syrians should do it with full respect toward Israel.

[Katzenell] What does this mean for the Syrians? Does it mean that they should stop encouraging Hizballah?

[Peres] Surely. Hizballah is against peace. I do not want now to start with accusations. The prime minister yesterday spelled out that peace must be supported in content, in form, and in air. That is what we are seeking.

[Katzenell] Can peace with Syria be achieved within the next few months, even though we are busy implementing the agreement with the Palestinians?

[Peres] If it is properly done and has the necessary mutual considerations—why not? You know, peace is also a process. Peace is not a headline in the paper. Peace should be built, conducted, and worked out very carefully. And that is what we have to do.

[Katzenell] Do you think the Israeli public is ready for sacrifices, even in the Golan Heights at the time when it is still, as you say, in shock from the agreement with the PLO?

[Peres] I think the Israeli public is sincerely seeking peace, and furthermore, I dare say that more and more Arabs, like us, are anxious for a real and full peace. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 20 September reports that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres would be very happy to meet with the Syrian foreign minister during his trip to the United States. We have a lot to talk about, the foreign minister said: the nature of peace and of the security arrangements, as well as the depth of withdrawal."]

Beilin on Peace Process, Jerusalem Issue

NC2009163493 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 17 Sep 93 p 24

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Buthaynah al-Biyali; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Biyali] The meetings between Israel and the PLO were characterized by such secrecy that even the United States was surprised. But it is clear Egypt knew everything. What was the extent of the Egyptian role in the process?

[Beilin] A close relationship with the Palestinians. Egypt held talks with the Palestinian side in many cases on ways to make progress. Egypt was very much in the picture and was trusted by the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

Egypt held occasional meetings with the Israeli side and at other times with the Palestinian leaders.

[Al-Biyali] The Israeli opposition says a Palestinian state poses a threat to Israel. What is your comment?

[Beilin] We are not proposing a Palestinian state, but a confederation of Jordan, Gaza, and most parts of the West Bank from which Israel will withdraw within the framework of the final solution. Today, we are only discussing the transitional period, not the final settlement. But many of us believe there will be a confederation. Since all of us—the Labor Party, Jordan, and the Palestinians—support the confederation proposal, there is a chance for thinking this will be the solution.

The only difference is that the Palestinians demand an independent state before the confederation, while we reject this and say the confederation should be established without declaring an independent state. I don't believe the differences are great.

[Al-Biyali] Do you believe the Israeli opposition has strong reasons behind this stance?

[Beilin] I believe they are exaggerated conceptions. At any rate, it is better to have a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan. This is the ideal solution for both sides.

[Al-Biyali] You were among the first Israelis to highlight the importance of dialogue with the PLO. We observed your activities in that direction. What is your comment now that your viewpoint has proved correct?

[Beilin] I believe there were changes on both sides. The PLO declared for many years that its sole objective was to establish a single, secular, democratic state, which meant eliminating Israel. We too reiterated over many years that we should not talk to the PLO. But both of us realized:

The Palestinians understood that Israel exists, that it is a strong state and entity with a robust economy, and that establishing a single, secular, democratic state is a childish dream.

Israel also understood that there is no alternative or party on the Palestinian side more moderate and pragmatic than the PLO. Some of us concluded this several years ago. But now is not the time to score points. I am only happy that this has become the common denominator in Israel. Everyone understands that the alternative to the PLO is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is more extremist. I believe both sides were correct when they took this right step at the right time.

[Al-Biyali] When did you start to believe this view of yours regarding the PLO?

[Beilin] I always believed we must speak to anyone who wants to speak to us from the other side. Many Arabs refused to talk to Israel for many years and adhered to the Khartoum [summit] resolutions—namely, no recognition of Israel, no peace, and no talks with Israel. It was a long process to change the Arab position toward negotiating with Israel. I believe it was wrong for Israel to refuse to talk to any Arab party simply because it was against Israel's policy. That is why I expressed my school of thought's view, which was better than that of those who had refused to talk to the PLO since 1967.

[Al-Biyali] Don't you believe it is better to reorganize the negotiating teams in Washington so that they can achieve more?

[Beilin] We could decide on this with the Palestinians. One option is to hold these meetings in places nearer us. It is funny indeed to be talking in Washington while we could talk here in Israel. This is why I believe we should refloat the idea of holding these negotiations nearer to the Middle East. This is not an official decision, just a personal proposal.

[Al-Biyali] The Labor Party's Moshav Group, over which you preside, proposed establishing an Arab quarter in east Jerusalem to be run by a Palestinian local authority. The proposal stirred the opposition against you. What are the details of the proposal and what is your view?

[Beilin] I believe it is extremely important in negotiations for each party to realize the other's limits. I believe that for the Palestinians this means Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, or most of them, and establishing Arab sovereignty over these territories. For the Israelis, it means no return to the 1967 borders and not giving up Jerusalem. If each understands what is most important to the other party we could conclude an agreement. Jerusalem is the most important item for us in the negotiations. But we must consider that there are Palestinians living in Jerusalem. A few years ago, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek proposed the idea of neighborhoods, within the framework of which a local solution could be found for the various factions living in Jerusalem, which are different in nature. It could promote a sense of self-fulfillment in these neighborhoods without dividing Jerusalem. By so doing, we could keep Jerusalem united under Israel's sovereignty as the capital of Israel and at the same time there could be some sort of local administration in these neighborhoods under which the citizens could determine their own affairs.

[Al-Biyali] Was this proposal submitted to other groups within the party?

[Beilin] Not yet, because it is not an item on the agenda. But this may take place when we come to discuss the final status.

Russia's Adamishin Arrives for 3-Day Visit 19 Sep

TA2009122593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 93 p A2

[ITIM report]

[Text] Anatoliy Adamishin, Russia's first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Israel yesterday on a three-day visit. He will confer with his Israeli counterpart, Dr. Yosi Beilin, and with Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan.

The Russian visitor will tour Jerusalem's Old City and Bethlehem and will meet with researchers from the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. Adamishin will leave Israel for Jordan on Wednesday [22 September].

Meets With Rabin, Beilin

TA2009170693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on Russia to encourage the Arab states to support the agreement between Israel and the PLO. Rabin, who met with the Russian deputy foreign minister today, briefed him on the main tenets of the agreement and commented on the need for financial aid from rich international bodies in order to develop the economy in the territories. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

In light of the difficult period Russia is currently going through, its motivation to show interest in a political process taking place far away in the Middle East is a bit unclear. Russia is not an active participant in the process, nor is it briefed on developments on a regular basis. The Russians are merely invited to the White House to sign already agreed upon documents, perhaps out of nostalgia for the Madrid conference where Russia was a cosponsor.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Adamishin met with his Israeli counterpart Yosi Beilin in Jerusalem today. Mr. Adamishin also met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The peace process was the main feature of the two men's discussion. Rabin explained the ramifications of the Gaza-Jericho First autonomy agreement and called on the Russians to encourage the Arab World to support the agreement and permit its implementation.

For his part, Adamishin said that Russia would cooperate in the implementation of the agreement between the two parties. Israel could count on Russia and on its commitment to peace and stability in the region, the deputy minister stressed. During their meeting, Prime Minister Rabin reiterated the need to get the international community, rich Arab countries, and other international bodies to help develop projects in the territories and improve the economic conditions of the Palestinians in the territories.

It is hard to believe that Russia itself will be able to divert rubles for investments in the Gaza Strip, of all places; however, at least the possibility of technological cooperation with Israel, for example in space technology, was discussed.

Comments on Accord, Proliferation

TA2009190193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin today had meetings in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. The prime minister explained the agreement with the Palestinians on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho first and asked Adamishin for Russia's help in enlisting support for the agreement in the Arab world. Adamishin said Russia would do all it could. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked the visitor if Russia would use its influence on Syria and other Arab countries which harbor terrorist organizations.

[Begin recording] [Adamishin] I would not like to speak in terms of influence, I would like to speak in terms of good relations and sometimes, I may confess, we did miss some possibilities because of maybe some euphoria, or some could also say illusions. Now, with more pragmatism, we try to have good relations with possibly more number of countries, certainly not considering one country against another, but having a conception of all for, all pro, all for peace and stability.

[Katzenell] Sir, is Russia prepared to help the United States and other countries with the aim of disarmament in the Middle East, of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and other dangerous weaponry, for example, to Iran?

[Adamishin] But why only speaking about helping the United States? We have our own so to say independent policy, which is against nuclear spreading, against missile technology spreading. So, I think that we are already doing a lot of things to this direction, and we are going to do them.

[Katzenell] But, was it not Russia in its aircraft which transported these ballistic missiles from North Korea to Iran recently?

[Adamishin] To my knowledge there were no ballistic missiles—to my knowledge. You know we have now a mixed economy in our country, and there are some private initiatives. You cannot check them all, but to my knowledge there were no military equipment in these flights. [end recording]

Ya'aqobi, al-Qudwah Meet, Agree To Pursue Dialogue

TA2109063093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi and Nasir al- Qudwah, the PLO's UN representative, held their first meeting ever last night in New York. They discussed the possibilities of amending UN resolutions denouncing Israel and of initiating a UN General Assembly resolution in support of the agreement between Israel and the PLO. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the

two men agreed to pursue a dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives on issues pertaining to the UN debates.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 21 September carries a recorded interview with Ya'aqobi by Arye Golan. Asked to comment on press reports that the Foreign Ministry is displeased with his meeting with al-Qudwah, Ya'aqobi says: "I know nothing about a reprimand from the Foreign Ministry, except for the report I read in one newspaper. I do not believe the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem or any other government ministry can today have any misgivings about meeting with a PLO representative to discuss the promotion of issues important to Israel in an international forum. After all, the prime minister exchanged letters of mutual recognition with the PLO, the foreign minister signed an agreement with the PLO in Washington, and the PLO became legitimate in the wake of this agreement and mutual recognition. Therefore, I do not believe that anybody in the Foreign Ministry seriously believes that a meeting focusing on an issue important to Israel can be unnecessary or illegitimate. In my opinion, such a position is not representative of the Foreign Ministry stand."]

Ministry Said Displeased With Meeting

TA2009123993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Displeasure at the private initiative undertaken by Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, in establishing a dialogue with Nasir al-Qudwah, the PLO's UN representative, was voiced yesterday in a meeting of the Foreign Ministry's management.

As is known, Ya'aqobi phoned the PLO representative three days ago to exchange views on various issues in anticipation of the upcoming UN General Assembly session.

Foreign Ministry sources pointed out that Ya'aqobi was in too much of a hurry because he had no instructions from Jerusalem to do what he did and that, in any event, he should have kept in mind that he represents a state while al-Qudwah represents an organization.

Even if autonomy is established in the territories, the PLO representative in the United Nations will not be granted the status of a state representative.

Israel Buying Oil From Arab States

TA2009130893 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Sep 93 p 18

[Report by Yig'al Laviv]

[Text] For about one year now, Israel has been purchasing oil in excess of 1 million metric tons from countries that had previously refused to sell to it, such as Libya, Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf states. Israel buys 10 million metric tons of oil annually: 4 million from Egypt (2 million on a long-term contract), 0.5 million from Norway, and the rest on the open market.

Israeli oil executives noted that Sidi Kurayr, a town near Alexandria, has developed into an oil port similar to the one in Rotterdam, where mostly Arab oil is sold. Deals are made through written contracts, and the crude oil is shipped in tankers from the port of origin directly to Israel. For example, if the selling country is Libya, the name of a refinery in Italy is noted on the cargo papers. The papers are amended en route, and the tanker continues to sail directly to Israel.

The thaw in relations and the willingness of these hostile countries to sell oil to Israel stems from the crude oil surpluses encumbering these oil-rich countries, whose current production exceeds demand by 20 percent. This has already reduced the price of crude oil to under $18 a barrel.

Yosef Kulitz, director of the Fuel Administration, confirmed that Israel purchases commercial quantities of oil from countries such as Libya and Saudi Arabia and that the only considerations are price and quality. Kulitz added that the annual quantities purchased from those countries exceed hundreds of thousands of metric tons but do not amount to millions of barrels.

Study Questions Viability of Arrow Project

TA2009163793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 93 p A5

[Report by Aluf Ben and ITIM]

[Text] Next year Israel will have to make vital decisions regarding the future development of the Arrow missile system and must consider its steps carefully before entering full scale development. This is stated in a study written by Dr. Re'uven Pedatzur of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, titled "The Arrow System and Active Anti-Ballistic Missiles Defense."

Pedatzur, who has been one of the Arrow project's sharpest critics from its early stages, finds serious faults in the project's monitoring and control process, stemming from the fact that all the information relating to the project is currently possessed by the defense establishment. He claims that to date no in-depth discussion has been held in any government or parliamentary forum outside the defense establishment regarding Israel's anti-ballistic defense.

Pedatzur believes that the threat posed to Israel by ballistic missiles will increase in the coming years following the Gulf War and Iraq's success in hitting the Israeli home front and disrupting normal life in Israel. He assesses that by 2010 Israel will be threatened by between 2,500 and 3,000 ballistic missiles, with the

enemy being able to launch approximately 200 missiles daily. The missiles will be capable of causing extensive damage to the home front, as well as hitting military-strategic targets with a view to disrupting reserves mobilization, neutralizing the Air Force, and destroying vital security infrastructure.

Pedatzur assesses that the cost of the Arrow's development and deployment will reach between $3.9 and $6.35 billion over the next 20 years. He believes that if such a large part of the defense budget is used for the project, this will seriously harm vital IDF [Israel Defense Forces] procurements and preparations vis-a-vis other threats.

Another problem pointed out by Pedatzur is the gap between the Arrow's high cost and the cost of the Scud missile it is supposed to intercept. The huge gap in costs poses serious question about the desirability of using an active defense system based on the Arrow, because this could bring about an economic disaster if hundreds of missiles are directed at Israel.

Pedatzur believes the growing threat obliges Israel to invest thought and effort in dealing with it. He doubts, however, whether the Arrow can deal with this mission successfully, and expresses concern about a delay in the project's development and substantial deviations from the original projected costs.

In a meeting with correspondents on the occasion of the study's publication, Pedatzur said that a change expected to take place in the nature of the ballistic missile threat over the next decade could confront Israel with a nuclear threat. Pedatzur says that in such a case an active defense system can prove very problematic from the operational point of view.

Pedatzur states that in the conditions which Israel faces, an active defense system which is not foolproof cannot serve as a real basis for a defense strategy against nuclear threat. In his opinion the Arrow's "leakage rate"—that is, the number of missiles which will be able to penetrate the defense system—will reach 15 to 20 percent.

According to Pedatzur, the development and deployment deadlines could be postponed due to existing and expected delays. According to assessments presented in the study, the first operational system will be deployed in 1999 or during the beginning of the next decade. Here Pedatzur disagrees with the official assessment of the defense establishment, according to which an operational Arrow battery will be deployed by 1998.

According to intelligence assessments presented in the study, Arab countries or Iran could acquire nuclear weapons and nuclear warheads for ballistic missiles within a decade. Pedatzur claims that if this happens, the Arrow system could face a ballistic nuclear challenge by the time it becomes operational.

Since it is impossible to differentiate between a nuclear ballistic missile and a conventional missile, Israeli defense planners will face an impossible dilemma. Pedatzur recommends to adopt a new deterrence strategy aimed at meeting the possibility that another country in the Middle East will acquire nuclear weapons.

Pedatzur also states that an examination of the operational aspects of the active defense system highlight the problems involved in its reaction to a chemical threat. The effects of chemicals discharged after a chemical warhead has hit have not been analyzed sufficiently. The defense system will therefore find it hard to provide an adequate answer to a cluster chemical warhead.

Serious doubts are also raised concerning the effectiveness of an active defense system aimed against a biological warhead threat.

Pedatzur underlines the difficulties posed to an active defense system by deception means and cluster warheads. Such means will be much cheaper for the attacking than for the defending side, thus posing serious doubts regarding the viability of developing defense systems such as the Arrow.

Pedatzur proposes several alternatives to the Arrow project's present development plan. One of these alternatives calls for limiting the development plan to elements jointly financed by Israel and the U.S. Administration. At this stage, this applies to the development of the missile itself and its launcher, excluding the firing control systems and the radar, which are being developed in and financed by Israel.

Another option is to examine the possibility of dealing with the threat through a defense system that will intercept enemy missiles during the initial stages of its flight, when its velocity is low and it is still above the launching area. "Such an operational solution calls for developing long-range systems that can remain above the launching area for long durations. Drones can be used for these purposes. These systems will spot the launching of missiles and send intercepting missiles. Theoretically such a system can be developed on the basis of technology already possessed by Israeli defense industries."

Pedatzur also suggests examining the possibility that Israel join one of the U.S. active anti-missile system plans, such as THAAD [Theater High Altitude Area Defense] or Erint [Exoatmospheric Interceptor], but doubts whether the United States will agree to involve Israeli industry in these projects.

The study analyzes in detail the failure of the Patriot missiles in intercepting Scud missiles during the Gulf War. Despite the Patriot's operational failure, however, Pedatzur recommends examining the possibility of basing the IDF's active defense in the next few years on the new generation of these missiles (PAC-3), which is currently being developed. He claims that it will be much cheaper to purchase the improved Patriots than to develop and deploy the Israeli missile.

Another option is equipping the Arrow missile with the Patriot's radar and fire-control system. This will allow

for an active defense system with a range of 30 km, as compared to the 70 km provided by the Arrow.

Pedatzur claims that defining the Arrow plan as a "national project" calls for the establishment of two control and monitoring systems outside the defense establishment which will monitor the costs and technical progress in order to prevent deviations from the budget and supervise the results. He also recommends tightening government and parliamentary supervision, mainly via the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 20 September adds: "Sources in the defense establishment told our military correspondent Karmela Menashe that they will not react to Pedatzur's study, because the Arrow plan is secret and some of its details cannot be revealed to the public."]

Further Reportage on Visit by PLO Leader 'Arafat

Holds Closed Meeting With King Husayn

JN2009152793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, held a closed meeting at al-Hashimiyah Palace today. This meeting was followed by an expanded meeting between the two sides, during which, the talks dealt with various issues of mutual concern in light of the recent developments in the peace process. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations and ways to reinforce these relations, particularly with regard to the peace process.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki, Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, and Royal Protocol Chief Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Bishop Ilya Khuri, and Yasir 'Amr, members of the PLO Executive Committee; Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council; Ahmad 'Abd-al- Rahman, member of the PLO Central Council; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

'Arafat Holds Press Briefing

JN2009183193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Jordanian-Palestinian talks began in Amman today under the cochairmanship of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Amman at noon today. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, the minister of information, and the minister of interior. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Bishop Iliya Khuri, and Yasir 'Amr; acting Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Salim al-Za'nun; PLO media spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman. More details are contained in the report of our correspondent for political affairs [Kassab Samawi]:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] The Jordanian-Palestinian talks started immediately upon the arrival of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Amman. His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat held a closed meeting at the al-Hashimiyah Palace. This was followed by an expanded meeting between the two sides, during which they discussed several issues of common interest in light of the recent developments in the peace process. They also reviewed bilateral ties and the means of enhancing them, particularly with regard to the peace process.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has described his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn as good and blessed, adding that this meeting reflected the strong and special ties existing between the two fraternal peoples of Jordan and Palestine. At a news conference held at the al-Hashimiyah Palace this afternoon, President 'Arafat added:

['Arafat, in progress] I would like to reiterate once again my wholehearted thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for this supportive stand he is taking to aid our endeavors. This stand has helped us enormously to achieve the objectives we have achieved. Meanwhile, I would like to call, on behalf of our people and our PNC, for the maintenance of this cohesive Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. As is well-known, the PNC passed a resolution in this regard. We are committed to this resolution, which will be honored in accordance with the free will of the two fraternal peoples.

[Unidentified correspondent] When do you expect to go to Jericho?

['Arafat] After 13 October, intensive negotiations will start between us and the Israelis to work out the details of what has been agreed upon; that is, to spell out the details of the effort to translate the agreement reached into acts on the ground. This will take two months. This means that, God willing, I expect to be in Jericho or Gaza late this year or early next year.

[Unidentified correspondent] The first question concerns Jerusalem. Is the Palestinian leadership sure about the future of Jerusalem, given the Israeli statements we are hearing?

['Arafat] I may have to repeat what I have said about Jerusalem. I would like to say that if the Jerusalem issue is deemed a single red line for Rabin, it is four red lines to me. There is a Palestinian red line regarding Jerusalem, another Arab red line regarding Jerusalem, a third Islamic red line regarding Jerusalem, and a fourth Christian red line regarding Jerusalem. At a news conference he held yesterday, Rabin admitted that there is a problem regarding Jerusalem. Do you see what I mean. So, the answer is in the affirmative. The Jerusalem issue is enshrined in the agreement. With regard to the interim period, it is stipulated that Jerusalem residents will take part in the elections in terms of nomination, voting, and election. Moreover, all our institutions there, including the awqaf, monasteries, as well as Islamic and Christian holy places, such as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the al-Aqsa Mosque, whose precincts we did bless [part of Koranic verse], will be under our control.

[Samawi] In your talks with his majesty the king today, was there an agreement to restructure the coordination committees already formed, and their future courses of action?

['Arafat] The answer is in the affirmative, regardless of whether the talk is about individuals or [changes thought]. Right now, we are in dire need of the presence of specialists within these committees, full-time specialists in each and every single field of action, and not only in political action field. [end recording]

Further on News Conference

JN2009194393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] President Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference at the al-Hashimiyah Palace today.

At the outset of his news conference, the Palestinian president lauded His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab stands toward the Palestine question since its very beginnings. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the date set for the deployment of Palestinian security forces in the occupied territories, he said: I prefer not to get into the details of this issue. What counts is the timing. The period of two or three months is not long. We should work diligently to prepare for everything. The deployment of the Palestinian security forces will coincide with the beginning of receiving the land.

Answering a question on whether the Palestinian-Israeli agreement constitutes a disengagement with Israel and marks the beginning of Israeli tourism and economic control over the Palestinian self-rule areas, 'Arafat said: We are under colonization, and we are currently compelled to rely on this colonization in all walks of life. Our agreement with the Israelis includes some of the things that we will do by ourselves as much as we can without the help of the Israelis. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Concerning the need for Arab reconciliation, the Palestinian president said: We talked about this issue when we left for Madrid. He wondered: How can we talk with the Israelis while there are obstacles among the Arabs themselves? He pointed out that before, during, and after the Madrid conference, there have been a number of Jordanian and Palestinian statements on turning over a new leaf with our Arab brothers.

'New Era' in Palestinian Ties

JN2109093893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 93 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Jordan pledged yesterday to extend full support and provide all means of assistance to the Palestinians in their efforts to implement the PLO-Israel accord on self-rule, especially in preparations leading up to the implementation stage, Jordanian official sources said Monday.

His Majesty King Husayn conveyed this Jordanian decision to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), during their meetings yesterday, the sources said. They told the Jordan Times that King Husayn also pledged to continue backing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to support the organisation in every way possible in its quest for achieving Palestinian national rights.

"Any signs of misunderstanding and hard feelings that were created by the conclusion of the PLO-Israeli accord (behind Jordan's back) were instantly wiped out when the two leaders met yesterday," one source said. "As far as I know, there was not a word of blame uttered during the exchange," the source added.

"It was all smooth sailing. Hard feelings were all left behind, and we are about to witness a new era in Jordanian-Palestinian ties," he said.

It was not immediately clear what the two leaders discussed in specific, but the sources said that Jordan expressed its full readiness to help meet the Palestinian requests in the areas of security, training and organisation in the run-up to the Palestinians taking control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

It was too early to go into details, since meetings between the two sides were still continuing (last night), the sources said. But the extent of the new cooperation and coordination will become evident in the near future, they said.

Mr. 'Arafat, on his first visit to Jordan since the conclusion of the PLO-Israel declaration of principles in August, said joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination committees were restructured to accomodate new relations based on unity and strengthened coordination.

Mr. 'Arafat, arriving from Cairo on a private Royal Jordanian jet on Monday morning, embraced King Husayn warmly and kissed his forehead after descending from the plane.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," Mr. 'Arafat told King Husayn at the airport referring to Jordan's full support for the Palestinian self-rule agreement.

The PLO leader [was] greeted with a warm and colourful welcoming ceremony also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and other government officials. The King personally drove Mr. 'Arafat to the Hashemiyeh Palace for a private meeting. A general meeting followed, before Mr. 'Arafat addressed the press.

Jordan was initially angered that the PLO-Israeli accord was negotiated in secret in Oslo while Palestinians were attending peace talks in Washington in a joint delegation with Jordan. But King Husayn later reiterated his full support for the independent Palestinian decision, in line with a commitment he made in the 1974 Rabat Arab summit meeting.

"I want to start by thanking from the depth of my heart and soul His Majesty King Husayn for his kind, blessed and supportive stances that we value and which brought us to where we are," Mr. 'Arafat told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an arrival statement.

He told a press conference following the meetings with King Husayn that Jordanian-Palestinian relations went beyond coordination, and he called for unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in line with Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions based on the free choice of both peoples.

"I am committed to confederation, because this is our political programme and I had been elected by our PNC according to this programme based on clear PNC resolutions confirming confederal relations between Jordan and Palestine according to the free choice of the two peoples," Mr. 'Arafat said. "However, the issue of confederation has not been discussed during this meeting with King Husayn."

He said steps leading to confederation have to discussed with King Husayn gradually "because during this very short period we have to stress upon how to coordinate better to face the implementation of the (PLO-Israeli) agreement on the ground. [sentence as published]

He said that the first step necessitates close Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to jointly face difficulties arising from the implementation of the accord, and the second step would be the unity of the two peoples in a confederation.

King Husayn has said that confederation would be possible after Palestinians regain their complete freedom and are able to exercise free choice. Both Jordanians and Palestinians have to be consulted on the issue, he said.

PLO officials said neither Jordan nor the PLO contemplate confederation at this stage.

"Palestinian-Jordanian relations are distinguished. What is between us is not mere coordination, but unity at the highest levels, and our discussions with King Husayn were in the context of this future vision of relations," Mr. 'Arafat said.

He was irritated by a journalist's question on the Palestinian vision of Jordan's role after the PLO-Israeli accord was concluded, and whether the PLO would take steps to disengage the Palestinian economy from that of Israel towards Jordan's. The question was seen as a reflection of Jordanians' concern that Palestinians would end up confederating with Israel rather than with Jordan, leaving Jordan's economy vulnerable to variations on the other side of the Jordan River.

Mr. 'Arafat blasted at the reporter in anger, saying the question was "loaded."

"How can we disengage? Our people is under occupation; our petrol, our electricity and telephones are from the Israelis. No doubt we will take steps, within our capability, to get rid of them. I would do it now, even before self-determination. If it was within our means to administer our own affairs, we would have done so," he said. "But we are compelled to need them in every field, including our wheat and our taxes. It is an occupation economy with all the cruelty of occupation. Or do you think we are taking a picnic under occupation?"

Addressing the two most thorny issues which are a source of concern for Jordan, the PLO and countries hosting Palestinian refugees, Mr. 'Arafat said the crucial issues of Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war and Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war were discussed with King Husayn and that a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli-Egyptian committee would be set up to discuss the arrangements for the return of displaced persons who were forced out from their homes during the 1967 war.

"These would return during the interim period," he said, refusing to provide exact figures of displaced persons who would be allowed to return.

He said the figures would be determined after discussions with Jordan and Egypt, hosts of the displaced Palestinians.

Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons. Jordanian officials said there are around 1.8 million, of whom 1.1 million are 1948 refugees while the rest are displaced. Jordan intends to ask for state compensation for hosting refugees since 1948.

Another committee would be set up to discuss the fate of Palestinian refugees who fled their homes during the 1948 war.

"The fate of old Palestinian refugees like myself would be discussed in a period not exceeding the beginning of the third year of the five-year interim period," Mr. 'Arafat said. He also said the thorny issues of the final status of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and borders and security would also be discussed at the start to the third year.

"Jerusalem would be dealt with in the interim period and in the final status negotiations," the PLO leader said. He said that Palestinians of East Jerusalem would have the right to participate in the elections for the interim self-government, and the status of the Holy City would be determined in permanent status negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin admitted that he faces a problem on the issue of Jerusalem. If it is a red line for him, it is four times a red line for me... it is a red line from a Palestinian perspective, from the Arab side, from the Islamic side and from the Christian side," Mr. 'Arafat said.

Denying that there were "secret annexes" to the PLO-Israel accord, Mr. 'Arafat said that some Arab and Palestinian parties "had fabricated false secret annexes... we are not ashamed of the agreement we signed which

was disengagement of Israeli army forces from Gaza and Jericho first and interim self-government in the rest of the occupied territories."

Mr. 'Arafat said he expected to go to Gaza and Jericho by the end of this year or the beginning of next year, when Israeli forces withdraw from these two areas.

PLO officials said a provisional council or committee would be set up in Jericho and Gaza, headed by Mr. 'Arafat and other PLO officials, in addition to residents of the occupied territories.

"Intensive Israel-PLO negotiations will start after Oct. 13 to agree on details of implementing the accord. Since implementation would take two months, I expect to arrive in Jericho and Gaza Strip at the start of next year," Mr. 'Arafat said.

The PLO leader confirmed that he had asked Israel for the release of the founder of the rival Hamas movement, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, whom he described as "a struggler and I am proud to work for his release."

"I have aksed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to bring this issue up with Rabin, and President Mubarak informed me this morning that he conveyed my request," Mr. 'Arafat said.

However, Mr. 'Arafat denied there was an agreement between the Hamas and Fatah leadership on a code of honour banning inter- Palestinian violence.

He said the agreement was between Hamas and Fatah prisoners in Israeli "concentration camps" in the occupied territories. The accord was sent to the PLO's headquarters in Tunis and "I respected and approved that agreement," Mr. 'Arafat said. He also said that he was still extending an invitation to Hamas to open a dialogue with Fatah, the PLO's mainstream faction, in Yemen.

He said Hamas has responded to his appeal for an urgent meeting in Yemen.

In Egypt, Mr. 'Arafat met with leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood to enlist their help in thwarting violence by Hamas against the PLO's peace deal with Israel. Despite its opposition to the accord signed last week, the Brotherhood has appealed to Hamas to refrain from violence.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan sharply criticised and opposed the accord, but it did not follow the Egyptian movement's steps in calling on Hamas to avert the use of violence.

Joint Committee Meets

JN2009173293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Kassab Samawi dispatch]

[Text] At around 1900 today, the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee met at the al-Hashimiyah Palace. The meeting was cochaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and His Excellency Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat.

The committee is expected to discuss new formulas for coordination between the two parties.

'Arafat Leaves Amman 21 Sep

JN2109102093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] His majesty the king today bade farewell to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who left Amman after the conclusion of his two-day visit to Jordan. Mr. 'Arafat held talks with his majesty the king and senior Jordanian officials on the Middle East peace process and the latest Palestinian-Israeli accord on interim self- rule in the occupied Gaza strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

King Husayn Addresses Local Media Representatives

JN1809200693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Proceedings of meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and local media representatives on 18 September at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman; questioners identified by screen caption—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers: It has been our habit to have such meetings as this one every now and then. They are a family affair taking place in this house of yours. I am glad I have the opportunity to talk with you about affairs of current interest as well as about our own affairs.

Ours is a cohesive and strong country by virtue of an inherited mission. Our country draws strength from fulfilling its duty toward the causes of the Arab nation under all kinds of circumstances. Our country draws strength from a clear vision on the part of all of us and from purposeful and constructive dialogue, the approach we have chosen to tackle our problems.

Before discussing issues of current interest, let us together remember and pay tribute to a dear brother who was present when you and I last met in this place. It was God's will that he leave this world to the other world. I remember his struggle and his literary and political contributions. We extend our sympathies both to ourselves and his family for the loss of this literary figure—brother 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar [Jordanian poet and writer], may his soul rest in peace and his abode be paradise. He will remain alive in our memory, and we will always remember his dedication and contributions to the country. It is God's will that we should meet with the same fate, death being an inevitability. We pray to God to give us the fortitude to bear his will.

I would have wished that none one of the country's media people missed this meeting. Naturally, there are

some who have not shown up for this session. We need other meetings so they may hear what I have to say and I what they have to say. I am talking about party newspapers. God willing, we will meet in the future, since the door of dialogue is open. As a brother and comrade in the public endeavor, as always, I welcome you in this house.

This is a critical juncture that calls for all of us to measure up to our responsibilities. I am glad we have with us today brother Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and the information minister—a long-standing comrade—both of whom have been dedicated servants of this country under all kinds of circumstances.

To begin with, I'd like to make the point that we are one family marching on the same road. Cooperation must be the road we take to our aspirations and hopes. Dialogue is an integral part of our lives. Discipline is also vital at this juncture, as it has always been, so we can march ahead and so each of us understands his role and duty.

I will now address our affairs and recent developments. I call upon all of you to work to enrich this march with their dedication and to focus on the need to maintain national unity and guard it against any tampering or any attempts to hurt it. Let us all respect one another and work for the present and future to the satisfaction of our consciences and to advance the public good.

By reviewing history, our most important cause—the Palestinian cause—and our relationship with it and the developments it has experienced, I find out we have always been at the forefront, extending our utmost support to the cause of the kinfolk and the brothers on their land and their national soil. Since 1974, we have been seriously complying with the resolution the Arab summit issued to meet the Palestinian demand for supporting the PLO and recognizing it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We have called on every level and in every circle and arena throughout the world for independent Palestinian decisionmaking and for the Palestinians' right to deal with their cause. We will extend every support to them, in all cases and circumstances. No step toward dealing with the cause, the core of conflict in this part of the world, can be taken unless the Palestinian brothers are enabled to say their word and unless we support then with all our energies and capabilities.

In 1974, there was a dividing line. We tried to give back to the kinfolk and the brothers the land for which we were responsible—a land that is so dear to us and to you. It was decided that it should not be returned to us but to its people and owners so that they could decide what they wanted afterwards. We, therefore, accepted Palestinian and Arab demand for independent Palestinian decision-making, for Arab support for that decision under all cases and circumstances, and for considering the PLO the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian Arab people.

In the late eighties, we made our decision to end administrative and legal connections with the West Bank. We believe this measure enabled the brothers to recognize, or accept, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a way to attain their rights on their national soil. In the recent past, we provided an umbrella for the joint delegation to enable our brothers to arrive at their basic and primary position in the phase of negotiations to solve this problem.

Naturally, in light of recent developments, this umbrella was obviated and we lifted it. You are all aware of the efforts that were exerted by Jordan and the other side in order to draw up an agenda to discuss issues related to Jordan, in particular, and to Israel. We had stopped dealing with this agenda until we could find tangible, real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, thus supporting our kinfolk and brothers in their efforts.

After the agreement was reached and after Israel and our brothers and kinfolk, the Palestinian side, exchanged recognition, the government ratified the agenda. Work will begin concerning all issues on this agenda, with the aim of solving them. On the other hand, we greatly hope to continue our march to reach the situation we have always sought, that is, a comprehensive, full solution that is satisfactory to all sides—a solution future generations will accept, preserve, and live with.

On another level, our story tells of many lost opportunities. I believe one of the most important reasons is the desire of our brothers and kinfolk in Palestine to move toward exercising their rights and taking their own path. Furthermore, the majority in this Arab world tends to take the easy path; namely, oneupmanship and belittling the achievements of others or their right to act. This got us to the point at which we now find ourselves.

As you all know, I was surprised by the recent agreement, in terms of its details and dimensions. I thought for a long time of what I should do in light of these facts. Eventually, I presented the people—my kinfolk, brothers, and loved ones—with the only stand that I could have taken. Neither me, nor you, nor anyone in the Arab world can pretend to love the cause more than the children of the cause, the people in the occupied territories, who have sacrificed so much and who have suffered so much and with whom we also suffered in this country, perhaps more than others in our Arab world.

We do not know what waits in store for us. Perhaps we might have some hard feelings to a certain extent because we were kept in the dark concerning many details of what has happened. However, the following question must be addressed: Was it possible to adopt another method, was it possible to present all these issues to so many people in this Arab world to give their opinion and present the views that they consider appropriate? Would this have led to anything?

In any case, because we were not in the picture in terms of all that has happened and agreed upon, the agreement, in the way it was done, we have the consolation that we

appreciate the circumstances. Extremely sensitive and delicate issues were done in this way in the past. Many people were also not in the picture concerning what happened and what was agreed upon.

Our position then is one of absolute support for autonomous Palestinian decisionmaking. We are the people closest to our Palestinian kinsfolk and brothers. They can count on our support under all kinds of circumstances. We will do all we can—with the cooperation of all parties, God willing—to fulfil our duties with a view to minimizing the negative consequences. Our efforts will be geared toward positive action that may help the attainment of the desired objectives.

Brother President Yasir 'Arafat will be visiting us here in Amman soon. I believe we are on the threshold of real coordination. We hope both of us will cope with all the new developments and the critical circumstances our cause is going through and which will have implications for future generations.

I think I must emphasize national unity. Anyone who tries to injure any brother with any offense or engages in oneupmanship is my enemy until doomsday. We have no choice but to act this way as we go about our daily lives. Neither can we afford to let ourselves unravel vis-a-vis our enemies. Let us work to let things turn out to the satisfaction of all of us—a just and dignifying peace that may prove acceptable to future generations.

There may be many question marks about many issues and matters. I see the present stage as the beginning. Answers may not be forthcoming for many of the questions now being asked. None of us, however, should say something is wrong with Palestinians pursuing their rights on their national soil. Their cause is our cause. They are our kinsfolk and brothers. I do not think any one of us wants to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude toward our Palestinian brothers, given what they have had to endure over a long journey—their elderly, youths, women, and children.

We endured more than anyone else in the Arab world. We suffered from the results and consequences of many of the policies which were not up to the required level in this Arab world. We had to put up with the results and burdens of all the tragedies that befell our nation, particulary Palestine. This should make us all proud as it shows that we have made every effort to carry out our duty toward our relatives and brothers.

We call on God to grant success to all. Our heads will always be held high, God willing. We will live in peace with our conscience, performing, offering, and not denying anything in all that brings good, with God's help.

There are many questions concerning our situation in the not too distant future, and the impact of all that has affected us. We will deal with all this with the utmost concern for cohesion in this country. We will make the appropriate decisions at the appropriate time to either proceed on the course we have set, or to take any other measure. But the objective will always be that we remain cohesive, and that our heads will always be held high, God willing, and that we be optimistic so long as our relatives and brothers are optimistic that they are on the threshold of a new dawn that will restore them their rights on their national soil. We will support them, God willing, as we have always done with all our ability and potential. This is what I wanted to say on this occasion and at this meeting. I now give you the opportunity to address any question, or remark, but let it not be a lecture. [laughter]

[Musa al-Kilani, AL-DUSTUR chief editor] Your majesty, if you please: Stemming from your many recent statements on the repercussions of what has taken place during the past few days on our situation in Jordan, and as you kindly said, we are currently at a serious fateful turning point and approaching an important coming phase. One of the points raised was the issue of parliamentary elections and their postponement, and how a formula can be worked out to defer these elections while preserving Jordan's democratic image whose major features were drawn by you. Thank you.

[Husayn] Preserving this country's democratic image is a commitment, an objective, a duty, and a march along an irreversible path. There will be no going back on democracy, on participation in decisionmaking, or on enriching the march through working for decisionmaking by everyone as part of this participation.

Likewise, there will be no going back on the insistence on making this country an example for its brothers in the great [Arab] homeland. With regard to elections, everything has thus far taken place as planned. However, we are seriously considering all repercussions and possibilities posed by the many questions in our minds. We have thus far found no answers to these questions which are facing us in this phase these days.

What is important in this issue—whether there will be any changes or whether we will continue with our arrangements—is the hope that everyone will rise to the desired level, so the political oneupmanship about what has happened or about what may happen in the future would not be among the factors which may be exploited in the elections phase in a way that may adversely affect national unity in this country, God forbid.

This is the first thing. Second, and as far as all of us as a family in this country are concerned, is the fact that our situation is different from that of any other Arab country. We have always been, and will continue to be, kinsfolk and brothers. With regard to the recent developments, once it is clear to us who will return [to the occupied territories] if he so desires, or who will stay [in Jordan], then he who chooses to stay will remain a citizen and a member of this family enjoying his full rights. Even if one chooses to stay and not return, while exercising his right to claim compensation or anything else—in fact, if this discussion concerns any Palestinian,

whether in Jordan, in any part of the Arab homeland, or in the world, who may leave any country—this will not mean that he has lost his claim to the basic right to his own homeland and soil, or in accordance with the international resolutions on repatriation or compensation.

Given all these matters and dimensions, I am not in a position to determine to whom this does or does not apply. Perhaps, I am not also in a position to leave it up to the people to choose whatever they wish at that time. However, the basic thing is that we should have cohesion in this country, safeguarding our national unity and standing fast as a family. Also, we should not allow any party whatsoever to harm the bright image of both this country and this one family by exploiting any circumstances or event with the aim of undermining or harming this edifice. God forbid, even partially, given the challenges it is facing and the responsibilities it should assume. Thank you.

['Umar 'Abandah, journalist] Sir, the Palestinian and Israeli leaders have made contradictory statements on the future of Jerusalem. In his televized message to the Palestinian people, the head of the state of Palestine said that the Palestinian flag will flutter over the walls of Jerusalem, and over churches and mosques. He specified the locations over which the Palestinian flag will flutter in the future. In my opinion, this will increase the burden on Jordan, given that, under international law, it is responsible for the sovereignty over this holy city. Will we pray in Arab Jerusalem, thank you?

[Husayn] Sir, until we attain our objectives, I have said and I will continue to say that there can be no solution to this issue if it does not tackle the issue of Jerusalem, and the place Jerusalem has in the hearts of Muslims and Christians, and taken within this context, perhaps the Jews too concerning their holy places. For all of us, in the past, at present, and under all circumstances Jerusalem is the holiest of places. I cannot say more at this stage, but we know and are aware of our duties. There will be no real peace if the issue of Jerusalem and its importance to all of us is not tackled in a satisfactory and acceptable manner to all. God, willing, we will pray in Jerusalem, and future generations will also pray there.

[Mu'nis al-Razzaz, columnist]) Thank you, Your Majesty. In most of your meetings with Jordanian writers, you have affirmed that Jordan is the refuge of all the Arab pens that have been broken. Jordanian writers, a few days ago, were surprised by a decision banning government employees from writing in the papers. This decision was based on an article which, I believe, was not even implemented during the martial law era. We should not forget that government employees can join political parties. With you personally protecting human rights and the rights of writers, we do not see how such a decision can be in line with the democratic atmosphere and human rights. Thank you.

[Husayn] I would like to clarify here that my stand on this issue is firm and constant. At the same, it is a stand that fully supports that of the government in this respect. Actually, the issue does not mean banning writers from writing. It means a commitment to style and to form. I regret to say that, perhaps, the behavior of one or more of the brothers has been one of the reasons which made us adopt such a decision. But, if the issue revolves around a state employee, what prevents him from asking permission to write within the framework of our laws? Matters will proceed smoothly. He will not be told what to write. But, we hope that what he will write will be constructive and will serve the interests of this people, this cause, and all of our aspirations and ambitions. Do not consider it as an issue directed against anyone, limiting people's rights, or banning people from writing and voicing their opinions. We support democracy. We hope that it will be always our course under all circumstances.

[Nabil al-Sharif, columnist] Your Majesty, I would like to make a quick reference to the subject of Arab coordination. We know that certain circumstances on the ground, which we may understand, have imposed the decision to sign the Palestinian- Israeli agreement as we know it. We are trying to convince ourselves that the reasons which led to that are well founded. However, this does not refute the fact that the image of Arab coordination has been harmed, and that the Arabs may have conceded some of their strong cards before the start of real negotiations on the core of the issue. How can we restore Arab citizens' confidence in Arab coordination?

[Husayn] Indeed, this is what I personally demand at this current stage. I believe that in our meetings I always talked to you about Arab coordination and said that it was more advanced than usual. However, it seems that it has somewhat fallen short of what is required. It is unreasonable that the situation remains unchanged. I believe that the current circumstances necessitate that there be sound coordination.

[Salamah 'Ukur, columnist] We notice that there are concerns and fears among our people regarding the Gaza-Jericho agreement. This is especially since there is a Palestinian-Israeli economic committee tasked with boosting the economies of Gaza, Jericho, and Israel, without the participation of Jordan, and without a role or share for Jordan in the economic boost. There are fears about this situation, and there are fears of a possible transfer. I believe such fears are legitimate. What measures and arrangements can the state adopt to remove these fears?

[Husayn] I believe that the starting point will be the meeting [with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat] that must take place very soon so that I may have a more accurate and comprehensive picture of the details. We will take all the required measures. I am confident that with respect to the Palestinian side—our kinfolk and brothers—it, too, is eager to remove any fears. I believe that matters will develop in such a way that Jordan will remain, as

always, a support for the kinfolk and brothers with respect to the present and the future. Future measures will be agreed on when as soon as an opportunity is made available. I am confident that the outcome, God willing, will be good, in the full sense of the word.

As regards the situation as a whole, I believe that we were right when we accepted and decided to go to the multilateral negotiations. In fact, our objective was and still is to place the world and the region and its people before their responsibilities toward any possible development leading to the resolution of pending issues and enabling people to restore their rights. As you remember, our decision was subject to opposition and criticism. We hope that during the next stage we will first be able to boost coordination to the required level and to receive answers to all the questions that might come to mind. At the same time, we will work to secure large- scale support and we will demand that the world pay attention to this issue with all its dimensions and effects on all parties, including the sons of this country, which is holding fast on the longest line of confrontation [with Israel].

[Sultan al-Hattab, columnist] Your Majesty, allow me to ask you the following question: Have you any reservations on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement? If not, we feel that our expressions of support for the agreement in our media are confused and perplexing. This confusion overshadows our clear stand vis-a-vis the world and what we have believed in, and what we have been loyal to in the peace process. Also, confusion affects our economic and social actions and our daily activities in all walks of life. Why do we not give the viewpoint that explains this agreement, and speaks about its contents more and broader coverage than the other viewpoint which only describes the agreement but does not discuss its content? We are passing through a stage of descriptions, a stage of airing the other viewpoint of this agreement and not a stage where the agreement is being explained and where those directly involved in it give their opinion. Some forces which are not committed, could exploit our stand and our perplexity. Does this not mean that we should now rally behind your leadership with a clear stand, and without confusion or perplexity to explain the many aspects of the agreement, whether the negative or the positive points, and not remain content with just making descriptions, casting doubts, and speaking a lot about resettlement and the substitute homeland? Any talk about these concepts, which originally do not exist, confuses our society and country and makes the people wonder whether there is actually something called displacement, or substitute homeland. I believe that the specter of the substitute homeland has become more remote with the settlement of the cause on Palestinian soil and not at our expense and through us, and that displacement is not in the offing unless it means that some of our relatives who will become part of the solution can go to the area lying west of the Jordan River. Thank you.

[Husayn] Sir, all of this, the issue of respecting the different viewpoints is essential. In our writings and statements, let us steer away from accusations, slander, and superficial tackling of issues to which we have become accustomed in our Arab world for so many years. I believe that there may be justifiable apprehensions. But, what has taken place so far is just the beginning. I caution against too much optimism or too much pessimism because the road is protracted, arduous, and difficult. One must focus on the need to remain one family, and united at heart with all our potentials and capabilities. We should respect one another, and wish success for every endeavor that leads to the objective of our relatives and brothers regaining their rights on their national soil. We are their partners. We endured with them and they endured with us. We lived together. We will continue to do so. I ask God for success and that the picture in all its dimensions becomes more clear as time passes. Once again, what has taken place is just the beginning. The road is protracted and difficult. I hope that attention will focus on what could lead to the regaining of rights by those who have a claim to them, and not to dismemberment, God forbid, that weakens and confuses and enables the enemies to attain their objectives. All of my brothers and my sisters should realize that this is a heavy responsibility.

[Muna Shuqayr, columnist] Thank you, your majesty. After the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was announced, I, and perhaps many others, felt a state almost akin to imbalance. I also felt as if there were forces in this world which seek to marginalize the Jordanian role. I wondered much about the reasons for this. Excuse me for speaking in a somewhat personal way, but I wondered: Did we enter the peace process, or the peace battle, without being sufficiently prepared for it? Accordingly, a process of such magnitude and the economic impact resulting from it should have necessitated the establishment of research centers with scientists and researchers working to prepare various scenarios and discuss all possibilities and alternatives. I feel, or rather, wonder: Are we, as Jordanians and as a Jordanian national action, responsible to a certain extent for the unclear aspects of the situation in which we find ourselves at this phase?

On the other hand, concerning your majesty's talk about oneupmanship, I believe that none of us has the right to exercise oneupmanship over the Palestinian people's agonies. We all realize, however, that the Palestine question formulates this region's present and future, and that the region's situation will not affect me but my children, others' children, and the entire generation. I thus feel that I have the right to disagree with this [Palestinian- Israeli] agreement. This right is not only secured by the democracy I am experiencing but also by being an Arab who is affected by the developments of our political events. Accordingly, I believe that this disagreement does not always mean oneupmanship, and that it may be something constructive that seeks guarantees for the future. A specific question is: According to your majesty's conviction, if Arab coordination had been better and if the mechanism for attaining the Palestinian-Israeli agreement had taken place in another

way—although I know this may be difficult to answer—does your majesty feel that the conditions we obtained in this agreement could have been improved? Could the status of Jerusalem have been any clearer? Could it have been possible for us to take practical steps toward Palestinian statehood and sovereignty? Thank you.

[Husayn] When I raised the issue of oneupmanship I did not mean to offend anyone. My pride in you all in this country and in belonging to you in my lifetime is the reason for my presence and for continuing to assume the responsibility throughout this lengthy journey which has had many painful aspects. However, I am only acknowledging a fact. In recent days, we discussed and read various documents, proposals, and plans which focused on both the Palestine question and the Palestinian right on the Palestinian national soil from the thirties until now. I talked about many lost opportunities. Perhaps, there were circumstances much better than these to begin the sound process that may lead to the desired results. But the method always employed was that of oneupmanship depending on how close or how far people were, and also on people's diverse feelings about the results and dimensions of any decision made. This is a fact and a reality which we cannot deny.

Palestine and Jordan, the recent years, the suffering that we underwent and are still undergoing compared to what we had hoped for and expected, the daily situation in the occupied territories, the martyrs...[sentence incomplete as heard]. This is not the first chance. There were many chances in the past before we arrived at this point. It seems that the Palestinian side which demanded—and so did the Arabs—that it be the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, has decided to shoulder its responsibilities. I believe that the Palestinian side must be aware of the people's situation and that it must have an idea about what can happen or result from this beginning. We cannot contradict ourselves now and begin to make criticisms. Otherwise, we would become like others who criticized what could have resulted in what is better than what we see now. We should focus on trust, which, frankly speaking, is perhaps not available up to this moment, although we are in dire need of it so that we can deal with all new facts and details to which you have referred. Indeed, had there been what we have aspired for in terms of trust, cooperation, coordination, and discussions covering all prospects, developments, and possibilities, the situation would have been better. However, this does not mean any change in what we have decided, which stems from our concern for the joint interest and the public interest now and in the future. I promise you that I will keep you informed of all details in the future, God willing. We will not focus on hopes only, but also on details, to the best of our ability. Thank you. Yes, brother Tariq.

[Tariq Masarwah, columnist] Your Majesty, it is evident now that some Palestinians are opposed to the agreement signed recently. They exist among us. The Gulf Cooperation Council recently approved the agreement before it was approved by the PLO Executive Committee. The majority of Arab states approved the agreement before the Executive Committee itself—which is the Palestinian people's de facto council of ministers—approved it. I do not know why whenever the question of approving or opposing what has taken place recently is raised, this is considered harmful to national unity in Jordan. What does this have to do with that? If there are Palestinian opponents to the agreement, why should we try to mute them out of concern for national unity? We are a democratic country. Some citizens are opposed to the agreement. In Syria, there is an opposition. I believe that this question has nothing to do with national unity at all. We should not feel that our national unity is threatened if somebody is opposed to the agreement. Why should it be threatened? Another point: His majesty the king called on the Palestinians to remain united. Your majesty is esteemed and respected by all factions—from Hamas up to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Is there is a possibility that your majesty will invite all these parties to Amman? What is required is not a single policy, but that ranks be closed, as your majesty said in a recent statement. Does your majesty consider inviting those people to sit and talk? Thank you.

[Husayn] Before I frankly and clearly answer your question, brother Tariq, once against we have to return to the past. I recall my stand at Arab summit meetings. For, to know the cause of the current situation, you must return to the past. Perhaps I was among the first, or rather the only one at that time—in the fifties, sixties, and subsequent years—who called for keeping the Palestinians' unity above all other considerations. I urged them to remain united and not to allow any Arab party to interfere in their domestic affairs. I said that no Arab party should have factions inside the Palestinian arena or impose opinions on them. I said that Palestine should be the focus of Arab attention and support. Regrettably, matters did not proceed in this direction. Had we been like others, we could have ended up having our own organization, of which we would say that it has the right to speak and act regarding any new developments.

I had asked and emphasized, more than once, that my Arab brothers deal with Palestine as a people and as a cause as they had done with Algeria, at one time. I have always supported the need for one viewpoint and one stand. The cause was a pan-Arab cause and will continue to be so. The cause was Islamic, with respect to Jerusalem, and will continue to be so. But, since 1974—this is natural because we have experienced this throughout many parts of our Arab homeland and the world nowadays—there has been an inclination to highlight the Palestinian identity and decisionmaking with respect to the right of the kinfolk and brothers on their land and national soil. We used to address the entire world and tell it: If Palestine and the Palestinians are not the basis, then there is no meaning for any discussion, and no results can be obtained. We abided by the stand, and I

believe that those who read my speech in the papers a few days ago, the speech I delivered at the Rabat [1974] summit, and still remember what followed it, cannot say I have changed my stand or course since that time.

At that time, there were no differences among the various organizations or parties that I have mentioned. There were no disagreements among them, and the PLO was the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate and sole representative. From this premise, it would be illogical and inconceivable, particularly under the circumstances we experience, that we change our viewpoint, or our stand, or our constant commitment since 1974. This commitment will remain as it is until matters reach their result which, God willing, will be good.

People are free to have their own interpretations and viewpoints. They are free to express such things. But this does not affect the stand of this country, this leadership, and its commitment on your behalf to a Palestinian demand that the PLO be the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative. Frankly speaking, I cannot—most probably this might have been possible had I been another person—at such a criticial stage, which came as a surprise to us, and after careful consideration, adopt a stand that could be described as a stand of oneupmanship, a stand stemming from anger or blame, or anything else and whose upshot will be the fragmentation and division of the Palestinians, God forbid, at a moment in time when they need to be together, and to hold a dialogue among themselves. Why should they hold a dialogue with me? Let them hold a dialogue among themselves? My duty is to support them. There are different viewpoints, viewpoints that could be gloomy and which, in fact, are entertained by many of us, and not only some of us. However, the basis should be that we should respect one another, hold discussions, but in faternal atmopshere, and carry out constructive dialogue to reach what is best. I believe we have spoken about this at our last meeting. We have said that the issue has never been a personal one. This can never be. Had it been so, we would not be speaking to most of the world, and to people in our Arab world, and elsewhere. National interest is above all other considerations, Sir. You, like me, are eager to safeguard it.

Thus, the point is: When will we, in the Arab world, reach a situation that we should have reached long ago, so we respect one another and do not abuse or offend each other? Otherwise, we will remain in this whirlpool of different viewpoints and we will not conduct joint action, which we have established that we want, designed to achieve an objective. As a result, there will be further fragmentation and weakness.

As far as the past and the recent events are concerned, at last, and after many years of positions that always encroached on this country, its policies, and its Arab, religious, and pan-Arab commitments, the circumstances prompted us to take a position, and we did. Perhaps, it is an opportunity to discuss inter-Arab relations.

There is still an abnormal atmosphere. We lived and witnessed the scenes in Washington at a time when Arabs are not shaking hands with one another and have not reached an understanding. This is the least that should be done in confronting challenges and dangers posed to everyone given the impression, which still exists, that we stood with one party against another. We did not stand with one party against any other party. We supported Arab unity, convergence, understanding, and cooperation. In our position in the Gulf crisis, or the so-called Gulf crisis, we also supported the preservation of Arabs' joint interest.

We stood alongside Iraq and the Iraqi people. We will continue to do so. We will remain alongside Iraq. According to a UNICEF report, I believe, the number of Iraqi children who may die in this phase as a result of shortages in food and medicine is expected to rise to 1 million children. We also stood against the wounds that will continue to bleed for a long time as a result of all this. We were concerned for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and each part of the Arab homeland. Our failure to prevent a catastrophe or to direct the course in the right way after the occupation of Kuwait and after ending that occupation and handling the issue within an Arab framework is another story.

It is high time for everyone to reconsider all these positions, so we reach the situation that we are supposed to attain. This country was asked to apologize for its positions. There is nothing to apologize for. However, and under this situation, if I am requested to personally apologize for any personal offense against any of my brothers, which I did not intend, if it ever happened. [sentence incomplete as heard] I did not offend the custodian of the two holy mosques His Majesty brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz or any other brother.

[Mahmud al-Rimawi] Your Majesty: I have some brief questions to ask if you allow me. The first question is whether recent developments, such as the agreement on the declaration of principles, would permit or justify the lifting of the Arab boycott on Israel and the start of a phase of normalization.

[Husayn, interrupting] So soon?

[Al-Rimawi] I am asking whether these developments would permit or justify such a thing.

[Husayn] Well, Sir, I think that this issue has to be decided by the Arab League. It is also linked with the decisions that could be made as a result of the progress that could take place.

[Al-Rimawi] Particularly since no solutions have thus far transpired on three fronts. The other question is whether the government will determine the number of refugees to ensure and facilitate the repatriation of all those who want to be repatriated. I believe that the Palestinian side does not have refugee lists to present them to the Israeli side.

[Husayn] This issue will be discussed with the Palestinian leaders when we meet them so that we can know exactly what is required, or even on what they have agreed.

[Al-Rimawi] The last question, Your Majesty, if you allow me: Do you believe that there is a chance for the successful implementation of this agreement, given the complications in the occupied territories and the Israeli-Palestinian demographic intermingling? Does the agreement have a chance for success?

[Husayn] God willing, there will be true chances for success. We hope and wish that all parties will deem the current phase a decisive one, one that will determine the future course of events. Once again, there has always been an emphasis on the need for a just and honorable peace that future generations can accept. As far as I am concerned, I would like to say that had there been no efforts in this direction, the alternative would have been the unknown, something that nobody would have liked. This brings us to some questions raised here, or to some remarks made here. It is perhaps high time the Palestinian individual felt some stability with regard to his present and future; the same goes for the Jordanian individual. He should not live from day to day without knowing what the future holds in store for him.

We have limitless pride in the courage, firmness, and steadfastness displayed despite these questions that continue to weigh on everybody's mind constantly. God be praised for all that has happened so far.

[Therese Haddad] Your Majesty, I want to begin with Rabat conference in 1974 and the blessing you gave to the independent Palestinian decision as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Then we move to all the positions adopted by Jordan—positions that do not need to be mentioned because the tongue cannot elaborate on them. Then we should note the Jordanian umbrella provided to the Palestinians in order to facilitate their talks with the Israeli side. And I want to pause for a while at the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which we as writers...

[Husayn interrupting] Gaza-Jericho First.

[Haddad] Gaza-Jericho First, on which we as writers and journalists need much information, and we cannot write on it because we have no information. There are occupied territories, and we cannot speak about the size of the opposition inside or outside the occupied territories. For us in Jordan, what is the shape of the relationship that will be with the Palestine Liberation Organization—or what has been called Palestine Liberation organization, because in fact after it recognized Israel it lost its legitimacy, and it became an organization that I do not know what its name will be? This is the first part of the question. The other part is: After what happened on that track, does your majesty feel that there should be a call for an Arab summit conference, in light of the developments that took place in the region, in order to discuss, consult, and present several Arab issues, and in order to reconcile? Thank you.

[Husayn] Concerning the last part of your question, the call for Arab conference, it has been repeated. My hope is that the Arab leaderships will rise to the level that they are qualified to reach, and that meetings will be held and the ranks will be unified in the face of their responsibilities toward the present and the future of this nation. As for our relations with the PLO, they will be strong. We have maintained them in the past, and we do our best to make these relations ideal with the side that was considered the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, with this leadership. As for the questions and queries, we have lots of them too. We hope that the coming days, weeks, and perhaps months will bring more information about what we do not know so far, and what we have questions about. Again, I believe that what has happened so far is only a beginning. We pray God that the results will be good, with God's help. Is there anything that we have not tackled? OK, go ahead.

[Ahmad al-Dabbas] Your Majesty, the refugees issue is a thorny and complicated one. The agreement does not discuss this issue clearly, and Jordan has shouldered the biggest burden of refugees from 1948 until now. How will Jordan deal with the refugees issue, especially since the Jordanian Citizenship Law allows for dual nationality and the issue of a Palestinian state is not included in the agreement? Thank you your majesty.

[Husayn] Sir, concerning our brothers here, they are in their country, and among there kinsfolk and brothers. We share with them the same duties and rights until anyone of them opts for another approach or new situation. We will discuss this issue in detail with the Palestinian side during our future meetings with them. Our position is clear; namely, that he who chooses to leave us for his mother homeland is welcome to do so; and he who wants to stay here and to enjoy his rights on his national soil—his internationally- recognized rights—is also welcome. He will stay here as part of us. We are one nation, and we are the closest to each other. Of course, all these issues affect our situation. This is why I said at the beginning that we are thinking of all these developments in order to discern our way at the next stage. However, I have said, and I insist on this, that under no circumstances should this national unity be encroached on in words, deeds, or anything else. No one's dignity, citizenship, or affiliation to this family should be hurt. This has never happened and will never happen under such circumstances. Praise be to God, we have endured together, and until the situation improves and until anyone chooses his way, we will continue to be one family, one hand, and one heart.

[Hamid al-'Abbadi] Thank you, Your Majesty: I have two questions on the Jordanian parliamentary elections due to be held on 8 November. My first question is the following: Your majesty, do you not believe that the

announcement by some foreign parties that they have named their own candidates in the Jordanian parliamentary elections amounts to interference in the Jordanian domestic affairs, and in the Jordanian decisionmaking? Do you not believe that such a thing will undermine national unity? My second question is the following: Will the parliamentary elections actually be held on schedule? Yesterday, we read statements by your majesty, given to THE WASHINGTON POST, insinuating that the parliamentary elections could be postponed, given the recent circumstances and developments. Thank you, your majesty.

[Husayn] Sir, with respect to this issue, I have listened to different opinions from various political figures in this country, recently in particular. There is concern that we will, God willing, continue to hold our heads high and that our ranks will remain unified. I cannot say that a decision has been made in this regard. The decision for now remains that the elections will be held on the set date. But, in the light of these developments, various viewpoints are now being raised. Regardless of their diversity, these viewpoints fall in the direction of concern for the national interest. I believe that we must take the views of all into account. We hope that Almighty God will help us to make the proper decision in this regard to realize our wishes. With respect to foreign parties; i.e., persons outside Jordan nominating people here, this is something I have not heard of, by God, my brother.

[Al-'Abbadi] [Words indistinct]

[Husayn] I believe that this is something rather peculiar. On the other hand, and in reply to a remark made by my brother Mu'nis [al-Razzaz, former columnist and currently secretary general of the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party], I would like to say that this country will always, God willing, remain the meeting place of free Arab people. It will continue to exude goodness, God willing. It will remain concerned with keeping the torch bright and glowing, and to set an example to others in the greater homeland and in other parts of this world, as well. Is there anything that we have not covered thus far so that we may go to have lunch or dinner, or what do you think?

[Ahmad Dhiban] God willing. I will not repeat previous questions, Sir. I would like to ask you about the upcoming phase. We will move from the phase of military conflict with the enemy to a phase that may produce competition in the civilian domain—in the economic, industrial, scientific, and agricultural fields. We cannot pretend to have the upper hand over the enemy in these spheres. I would like to ask about the conception regarding the upcoming phase. Are there any plans to cope with what could be an economic, scientific, and industrial Israeli invasion, particularly since Jordan is the gateway to the Arab region? Thank you.

[Husayn] I began by addressing the issue of Jordan and Palestine. I also spoke on the impact of all that has taken place thus far. Furthermore, probably elsewhere, I stressed the need to make a qualitative leap in people's lives once the objective is achieved. This is necessary to avoid the creation of the gap you are speaking of right now. This should take place in circumstances that must be completely different from those we are currently experiencing.

Early on in this meeting, I also talked about the rights of both individuals and nations to advancement and to avail themselves of the opportunity to lead better and more decent lives than has been our lot. Maybe the time has not yet arrived for an answer to your question. We have only just started. God willing, though, if the end result is a dignifying and just peace, the world will hopefully come forward and lend a hand so that we can make a qualitative quantum leap. The people will then reap well-deserved rewards and enjoy peace of mind, as well as adapting to unfolding and as yet nebulous conditions.

[Sulayman al-Qudah] With your permission, your majesty: I would like to say a few words on behalf of all my fellow journalists and myself: You began, your majesty, by paying tribute to the late 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar. I would like to say that we acknowledge and appreciate the care and attention the press corps receives from your majesty and the august Hashemite family. It is symptomatic of your attitude toward the larger Jordanian family wherever its constituent members hail from. I just wanted to state this for the record, your majesty, on behalf of all my colleagues. Such meetings just show how much you care about us, your majesty.

[Husayn] I thank you all; until we next meet, I wish you all good luck.

Hizballah Paper Publishes Alleged 'Secret Annexes'

NC2109101593 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 10 Sep 93 pp 16-17

["Full text of the secret annexes" of the Gaza-Jericho agreement "as translated from the official Russian text"]

[Text] Annex I: Political Cooperation

1. The PLO recognizes the state of Israel and the Jewish people's right to exist on the land of Palestine. Israel recognizes the PLO as an interim and future self-government for Palestinians after formal [shakliyah] elections.

2. The PLO ends all media campaigns hostile to Israel. It pledges to liquidate any Palestinian political or military opposition campaigns aimed at annihilating Israel and killing its citizens.

3. The PLO pledges to protect the lives of Israeli citizens who work and carry out their business in Jericho, Gaza, and in the other towns of Judaea and Samaria. The PLO does not oppose Jewish settlement-building supervised and approved by the Palestinian interim self-government.

4. Israel pledges to support the Palestinian interim self-government politically and financially during the self-rule years.

5. The Palestinian interim self-government does not have the right to exercise foreign policy acts or establish independent Palestinian embassies during the self-rule years. The existing Palestinian embassies will be closed. Agreement may be reached on employing Palestinians in Israeli embassies to coordinate the affairs of the Palestinians in the self-rule areas and of those living in Israel.

6. No independent Palestinian political government may be established—only an administrative one. No Palestinian currency or independent Palestinian passports may be issued.

7. The Palestinians of Gaza and Jericho will be given Israeli passports that will indicate their nationality as Palestinian.

8. The members of the Palestinian interim self-government will carry (special) Israeli passports showing their nationality to be Palestinian.

9. During the five years of self-rule, the PLO and the Palestinian interim self-government have no right to demand the return of the refugees or evacuees who moved to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. No Palestinian previously engaged in military or political acts hostile to Israel has the right to return except after obtaining a good conduct certificate from the Israeli security forces.

Annex II: Security Cooperation

1. Neither the PLO nor the Palestinian interim self-government is entitled to establish a Palestinian army. The Israeli army will protect the border.

2. The Israeli army will protect the Palestinian self-rule areas in the State of Israel.

3. The Palestinians living in the self-rule areas are not entitled to carry or possess any firearms or material that is explosive, dangerous, or harmful to humans, including chemical, poisonous, and radioactive material, without prior permission from the Israeli security authorities.

4. The task of maintaining internal security in the Palestinian self-rule areas will be discharged by the Palestinian police. They will receive their salaries and weapons from the Israeli Interior Ministry through the Palestinian interim government. The Palestinian police will operate in accordance with Israeli police bylaws.

5. Neither the PLO nor the Palestinian interim self-government may authorize establishing Palestinian organizations, parties, or movements that aim to destroy Israel or kill Israeli citizens. The PLO and the Palestinian interim self-government undertake to try to crush, to stop any public or secret attempts to form terrorist Palestinian organizations.

6. The inhabitants of the Palestinian self-rule areas are not entitled to enter Israeli land or areas without first obtaining a special permit from the Israeli Interior Ministry or security offices.

7. The Israeli Government will protect the members of the Palestinian interim self-government and the Palestinians living in the self-rule areas from any external or internal attacks by opposition Jewish groups.

8. The PLO or the Palestinian interim self-government undertakes to deliver lists of the names of Palestinian groups—religious and otherwise—opposing the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO three months after the implementation of the peace agreement begins. The PLO or the Palestinian interim self-government also undertake to monitor the activities of these groups.

9. The PLO or the Palestinian interim self-government undertakes to dissolve the organized terrorist groups in the self-rule areas, hand over their weapons, and give information about the places in which such weapons are stored.

10. The Israeli Government undertakes to ensure the safety of and protect the lives of the PLO leaders who want to live in Israel or the self-rule areas.

Annex III: Economic, Trade, and Financial Cooperation

1. The Israeli Government undertakes to offer economic aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

2. The Palestinian interim self-government will allow Israeli merchants and businessmen to establish commercial, industrial, and construction projects in the self-rule areas.

3. The Israeli Government will earmark a special budget for the Palestinian interim self-government members and their families and will pay for their sons' education.

4. The Palestinians are entitled to set up Palestinian or joint banks in the self-rule areas.

5. The Palestinian interim self-government has a right to impose and collect taxes in the self-rule areas.

6. The Palestinian interim self-government will not object to the purchase or sale of land within the self-rule areas to any Israeli who wishes to buy or sell land and will facilitate the relevant administrative procedures.

7. The Palestinians are entitled to establish a civil airport in Gaza and a joint Israeli-Palestinian command will take care of its security.

8. The Israeli Government will launch campaigns to collect financial and economic aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas. The Palestinian interim self-government has no right to receive official or unofficial financial aid without the knowledge of the Israeli Government. Aid should be deposited in the general Israeli budget.

9. The budget of the Palestinian interim self-government will be considered an indivisible part of the Israeli Government budget relating to the development of the Palestinian self-rule areas.

10. The Palestinian interim self-government has no right to sign contracts or joint agreements on economic and financial projects without an advance study with the Israeli Government.

11. The official currency in Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas will be the Israeli shekel.

12. Imports or exports of any goods for civil use in the Palestinian self-rule areas will take place through the Israeli Trade Ministry. The Palestinian interim self-government has no right to exercise this activity unilaterally.

13. The Palestinian interim self-government has no right to deal with foreign currencies or receive external loans unless they are based on the economic, trade, and financial laws in Israel.

14. The elected Palestinian interim self-government cannot exercise any financial, economic, or trade businesses with the Palestinians residing outside the Palestinian self-rule areas or in neighboring countries or offer them financial aid. Direct agreement will be reached between Israel and the Arab countries in which Palestinians reside.

15. The Israeli Government will work to open the door to business and trade between the Palestinians and the oil-producing Arab countries and facilitate Palestinian experts' travel to work abroad and allow them to return when they wish.

16. The Palestinian self-government pledges to help Israel to obtain trade and economic projects in the Arab countries after signing peace agreements with the other Arab countries.

17. The Palestinians in the administrative self-rule areas have a right to market Israeli goods and industries and to study at Israeli universities and share in external Israeli projects.

Annex IV: Information Cooperation

1. The PLO and Israel agree to stop hostile Israeli-Palestinian campaigns.

2. The Palestinians and Israelis agree to direct their joint information [i'lamahum al-mushtarak] to fight fundamentalists and terrorists in Israel and Arab countries as well as opponents to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab peace process.

3. The two sides agree to stop the campaigns hostile to Jews and their historic rights in Palestine as well as to international Zionism.

4. The Palestinians can set up radio and television stations and publish newspapers with the permission of the interim self-government and in accordance with Israeli media systems.

Annex V: Special Issues

1. The Palestinian interim self-government is not entitled to interfere in the domestic or foreign policy of the State of Israel.

2. The Palestinian interim self-government is not entitled to establish ministries, official agencies, a guard of honor, or any other feature of independent states or invite presidents and kings. The Israeli flag will fly beside the Palestinian flag at the offices of official Palestinian institutes.

3. The Israeli Government is entitled to monitor and inspect the work of the Palestinian interim self-government and appoint Israeli observers in cases where measures and practices that are illegal and conflict with the agreements concluded between the Israeli Government and the Palestinians are detected.

4. The Israeli Government and its security organs are entitled to deploy and chase (Israeli or Palestinian) elements wanted by the Israeli Government in the self-rule areas any time these organs deem it appropriate for their work. The Israeli Government and security organs retain the right not to notify the Palestinian interim self-government and security organs [beforehand] to avoid leaks. The Palestinian interim self-government will be notified once the operations are concluded.

5. The Israeli Government may refuse to allow the Palestinians born in Jericho, Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria and living outside Israel to return to their homes on security or health grounds [li dawafi' amniyah aw sihhiyah].

6. The Palestinians living in camps in the Palestinian self-rule areas have no right to demand to return to their original dwelling places. Agreement will be reached between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian interim self-government on appropriate compensation.

7. Palestinian intervention in and hostility to the immigration of Jews to Israel is strictly prohibited. Agreement will be reached with the Palestinian interim self-government on keeping Jewish settlements in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

8. After the self-rule period, the Israeli Government has the right to hold a public referendum in the Palestinian self-rule areas on the principles of full independence, federation with Israel, or confederation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The choice made by the inhabitants of the Palestinian self-rule areas through a referendum will be final and irreversible.

9. The Israeli Government has the right to grant Israeli nationality to those inhabitants of the Palestinian self-rule areas who so desire without referring to their original nationality.

10. The Israeli army has the right to carry out protective and security missions and to deploy in adjacent Arab areas without informing the Palestinian self-government. The Palestinians have no right to interfere in the work of the Israeli army or government in the adjacent Arab areas.

11. If military, political, or media hostilities break out with any Arab country that is next to Israel and has no peace treaty with Israel, the Palestinians in the self-rule areas have no right to interfere or become hostile to Israel because of this. Israel's affairs and problems with its neighbors will be solved without the Palestinians intervening.

Al-Hirawi Cited on Talks, Settlement, Accord

NC2009134593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Report by Sa'd Ilyas from B'abda Palace in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said: We entered the Madrid negotiations through a wide Arab door, and Lebanon and Syria will be the last two countries to sign a settlement with Israel. The president spoke to a delegation from the Editors Association about the great movement of peace in the region and developments in the next three months. Editors' doyen Milhim Karam cited the president as saying:

[Karam] As to why his excellency said the next three months will be delicate, the answer is simple: The Americans announced that everything would be completed in 1993 and that the results would appear in three months. Hence the conclusion and the appeal. We are eager to keep this in the minds of those to whom we addressed the appeal.

His excellency believes that the settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] is a major threat to the country. If sometimes he does not concentrate on this issue, it is because it is at the heart of the Constitution, which stresses three no's: No to the settlement, no to partition, and no to division. If one of these no's is dropped, it could cancel the other two. Hence the seriousness of the issue and the need for the state to adopt a position: To be or not to be.

His excellency said: We entered the Madrid negotiations through the wide Arab door. He reiterated his admonition of the Palestinians, saying he considered what happened as a departure from Arab solidarity.

[Ilyas] The president said that all the sides must try not to antagonize the government. He said he must mobilize every capability to face the post-peace stage. He stressed that Lebanon sets difficult and important conditions for peace and fears the Palestinians may be used as the horse the Israelis ride to promote their commodities to the Arab countries.

President al-Hirawi said it is not true that the al-Ta'if Accord wrested the president's power and gave it to the prime minister. Power, he explained, was given to an institution called the Council of Ministers. He said: I do not want to impose taxes on the people; we resorted to soft loans because we lost hope of obtaining grants. Lebanon is unlucky with aid.

Buwayz on Arab League Discussions, Gaza-Jericho

NC2009181193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Statements by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in response to questions by unidentified correspondents at Beirut Airport on 20 September—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, you returned today from the 100th session of the Arab League Ministerial Council. What is your assessment of the results of that session, particularly in relation to Lebanon?

[Buwayz] As expected, the climate of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement prevailed throughout this regular session. Discussion revolved around that agreement on the first and second days. You know that the session listened to President 'Arafat, who explained this agreement. Not all shared the same assessment of that agreement. Anyway, the statement issued tried to reconcile the various Arab stands on that issue.

In addition, the meeting provided the opportunity for several useful bilateral meetings, during which we discussed the latest regional developments and what is expected in the near future.

[Correspondent] What about Resolution 425? Did Lebanon put that resolution on the agenda of the session?

[Buwayz] Resolution 425 is considered one of the constant and permanent items on the agenda of the Arab League meetings. I believe that the final statement, which is yet to be issued, will include a paragraph on Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Was the issue of assistance to Lebanon discussed?

[Buwayz] The issue was not raised. I believe that the issue of economic cooperation with Lebanon was the subject of the prime minister's recent tour of Arab states.

[Correspondent] Some Arab parties have expressed reservations on the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Of course, you discussed the issue at your meetings. What was the reaction by those who had reservations?

[Buwayz] This agreement is ambiguous enough to open the door for various interpretations and speculations. As far as we are concerned, I believe that the Lebanese stand is clear on the issue; we do not believe that the agreement represents an accomplishment or a triumph. We believe, however, that the choice is up to the Palestinian leadership, which has to bear the responsibility for that choice.

[Correspondent] After all these doubts on the Arab stand, how do you view the coming stages of the peace negotiations?

[Buwayz] We believe that Arab states need to unite now more than ever. We believe that this stage—the stage of negotiations, which is decisive in the future of this region—requires a historic Arab stand. We should at least not assume that the collective Arab stand will collapse at the doorstep of these negotiations.

[Correspondent] About the Lebanese and Syrian stands on negotiations after the development involving the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks; will Lebanon continue negotiations along the same line?

[Buwayz] Of course. We are still committed to the peace process. We will continue this process. As far as the substance of negotiations is concerned, we do not believe that the Israeli side has presented a clear, candid, and reassuring proposal concerning Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon, at least as we understand that withdrawal. Thank you.

Editor Says Separate Accords Do Not Lead to Peace

NC2009090893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Sep 93 p 1

[Editorial by Talal Salman: "Peace Is Not a Collection of Separate Agreements!"]

[Excerpts] A separate peace does not constitute a solution, either for the concerned Arab party or for Israel. Indeed, such an agreement, regardless of the Arab signatory's identity, is likely to become an additional problem for Israel.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is not the sum total of the Arab regime's conflicts with the Zionist entity. What lies at the core of the issue is the general Arab destiny and personal feelings, indeed perhaps the personal interest, of every Arab citizen. Furthermore it is the raison d'etre of many Arab regimes. If this conflict is declared finished, these regimes will fall. If the conflict persists, they continue in power.

Every Arab citizen has a share in this conflict. Every Arab citizen, in the Maghreb and the East, has paid a certain price out in blood, wealth, or happiness, for this historical conflict. No one generation has the right to declare it finished. The conflict predates this generation and will outlast it.

Even the Palestinian who, theoretically, owns the land and therefore the "legitimate" right to "concede" the cause, does not have the right to prevent any other Arab from proceeding with the case in the capacity of plaintiff. This is because the affair goes beyond the existing entities' political boundaries and the Palestinian individual's personal rights. Indeed, it goes beyond the totality of the Palestinian people's rights.

The Arabs fought in Palestine and for Palestine even before "the state of Israel" rose upon it or on some of its territory.

The Jews, or Zionists, fought the Palestinians and the Arabs while "Israel" was still a political dream and a merely embryonic alliance between the Zionist movement and the Western colonial powers that controlled the Arab region, particularly Palestine, in the period between the First and Second World Wars.

Thus, a separate peace with the Egyptian regime plus a separate peace with the Palestinian "regime," a separate peace with the Jordanian regime, a separate peace with the Moroccan regime, and a separate peace with "the Arab merchants" in the Peninsula and the Gulf, will not mean a closure of the Arab-Israeli conflict file and an opening of a new chapter between the "region's Arabs" and the "Jews of the Diaspora" or those of them who have assembled in Palestine. [passage omitted]

The Arab citizen might accept a fait accompli because he has no current response to it. This, however, does not

mean recognition or acceptance of Israel as a natural and final partner in land and destiny.

Palestine is Palestine; and Israel is a foreign body, now, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, and to the end of time. [passage omitted]

Soon, when the carefully-planned, festive period ends, it will be possible to speak of the "life-span" of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, and of those who signed it.

While waiting for that day, there is no ban on enjoying the appearances of the "festivity" among the Palestinians inside the territories or even the "Israelis" of the territories. These assume that they have at last found "the magic solution" to the problem of their existence and future on the land which begat them or gave them residence.

Twenty separate peaces can never mean "peace" between the Arabs and the Israelis. They would merely add twenty Arab names, symbols of the Zionist entity, who would be taken to task when the hour of settling the accounts comes!

Al-Hariri Denies Government Reshuffle, Resignation

NC2109131293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stressed that the government will continue to perform its mission effectively without any change or amendment. He told journalists: There is no need to fabricate rumors and stories about a reshuffle or the departure of the government. He added: They [not further identified] are demanding the departure of the government, but we and they will continue to move in two parallel lines that cannot meet. Everything said about change or resignation is untrue.

Al-Hariri refused to describe his differences with Minister Michel Samahah as a crisis. He said everything is over now; Samahah is satisfied, and there is no problem with Lebanese Television.

Al-Hirawi Cited on Troika Coordination, Suburb Incident

NC1909111693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has emphasized the need to ensure internal unity to confront all changes. He was cited by his visitors as affirming that coordination among the troika [the president, prime minister, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies] is a given and not subject to discussion or debate, and it involves every action by the state. He maintained that any differences will have a negative effect.

Regarding rumors about the security situation, al-Hirawi said: We must expect to hear such rumors in the next three or four months, which will witness a peace tremor, as he put it.

Regarding the investigation into the southern suburb incident, the president said that he asked to be briefed about the investigation because the issue is of extreme interest to him. He asked: How can an investigation be held when no medical committee is allowed to examine the bodies and the wounded? How will the investigator know the type of bullets and from which direction they were fired, and how will the coroner determine the cause of death without an autopsy?

Dallul Renews Pledge To Stop Hizballah After Withdrawal

NC2009120793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul renewed Lebanon's pledge to stop Hizballah's operations if Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon and implements UN Security Council Resolution 425. In an interview with Australian television, Dallul said that the state is now sufficiently capable of maintaining security. He said: We have proven that we have a strong and capable army. Israel will have to withdraw from our territory before we implement our pledges.

Minister Dallul dismissed the idea that the Israeli presence in the south is for the purpose of defending northern Israel, noting that this theory is no longer valid as the threat to the security of Galilee has become greater since Israel occupied the south.

The defense minister reiterated Lebanon's commitment to continue the Washington negotiations to achieve full Israeli withdrawal, noting that Lebanon faces a great challenge in time of peace because many of its roles will be taken over by Israel, which has the services to provide to the Arab world.

Minister Dallul expressed surprise that many regional and international parties have refrained from extending aid to Lebanon for its reconstruction and disregarded their many promises to do so. But they have rushed to extend billions of dollars in aid to the Gaza-Jericho plan, even before it has gone into effect. He expressed the fear that many parties do not want Lebanon to succeed in its endeavors.

Hizballah Chief Criticizes Government Over Shooting

NC1909121493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Hizballah's commemorative ceremony for the victims of al-Ghubayri incident is continuing. Speeches and slogans have called for bringing down the government.

In his speech, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said: Judging by the latest cabinet statement, the political authorities are perpetrating a new massacre by preventing a proper investigation from being carried out, by suppressing liberties, taking pride in blood-soaked hands, and preparing for new bloodbaths.

Nasrallah added: This is a fallen government, popularly, politically, and morally.

He explained that a certain regional circumstance has kept the government in power although it has not achieved anything. He noted that when it assumed office, achievements had already been made in the country.

The Hizballah secretary general maintained that all political echelons including the head of state and the government are conspiring against the resistance. He said the political establishment is back stabbing, concluding agreements behind the scenes, and dragging the country toward a catastrophe. He pointed out that the government is the first violator of security and the party that involves the country in the inferno of war.

Nasrallah continued: Let it resign, let it fall, let it do what it wants. As to our people, they can no longer coexist with a murderous, criminal political establishment.

Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan said: We do not wish to fight the Army but to absorb it, because it is made up of our sons.

He urged the government to be decisive, tell the truth, and punish the culprits and those behind them.

Qabalan added: If the government does not defend its own people, we have no use for it. What happened is very regrettable, particularly in the current circumstances which make it necessary for us to demonstrate that we are a nation that has eschewed chaos and seeks to build a democratic state that respects liberty and allows opinions to be expressed in a civilized manner.

Chamber of Deputies member Zahir al-Khatib urged the government to step down. He announced: This government must go after events demonstrated that it is not qualified to maintain domestic peace, not only because it committed a crime through its decision to open fire on a peaceful popular demonstration and violated the Constitution which guarantees liberties, but also because its mentality, policy, and methods encourage confrontation between the state and the public. [passage omitted]

'Ali 'Akkush, member of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau, refrained from attacking the government like the other speakers. He restricted himself to generalities and to comments on the peace negotiations. He asserted that Amal supports civil liberties and the resistance.

Hizballah Radio Reports Raids, Attacks on Patrols

NC2109064493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Enemy forces fired illumination flares over 'Ali al-Tahir forest, Kafr Tibnit, and Qal'at al-Shaqif at 2130 yesterday. Machine-gun fire could be heard near the enemy position in al-Dabshah.

Enemy planes raided Mlita and the outskirts of Jarju' at 1835 yesterday after flying repeatedly over the area. Sporadic shelling was reported in Sujud. At 1840, enemy planes staged another raid on Mlita.

An Israeli military spokesman announced the raids, claiming they targeted Hizballah positions in Jabal Safi.

The Islamic Resistance went into action against the Zionists. In western al-Biqa', an Islamic Resistance group attacked an enemy patrol on Tumat Niha road with machine guns and rockets, killing enemy personnel.

Another resistance group attacked a Zionist patrol on Sujud-al-Rayhan road with machine guns and rockets, destroying a tank and killing or wounding its crew.

Resistance Attacks 4 Israeli, SLA Posts

NC2009171193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Security sources report that resistance men have attacked four Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] posts near the security strip with rockets and mortars. The sources said the Israeli and SLA artillery retaliated by shelling Iqlim al-Tuffah, where Hizballah positions lie. There were no reports on casualties.

Hizballah said its fighters attacked an Israeli patrol inside the security strip today, but security sources in Marj 'Uyun denied the attack.

This afternoon, Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, especially al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Mlita came under intermittent shelling from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. The Israeli forces in 'Ali al-Tahir have been raking 'Ali al-Tahir woods since approximately 1800 today. Several vehicles were seen moving from 'Ali al-Tahir toward al-Tuhrah.

Council Meets, Discusses Political Developments

NC1709202593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Statement by Muhsin Dallul, defense minister and acting information minister, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after a Council of Ministers session in Beirut on 17 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister

Rafiq al-Hariri at the Government House. At the outset, the prime minister discussed the visit to Lebanon by a Syrian delegation under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the agreements signed during the visit. [passage omitted]

The prime minister referred to the political developments in the region. He called for vigilance so that some suspect plans and agreements will not be implemented. He said: We have to be alert so that Lebanon will not once again become a stage for conflict to serve others' interests.

The Council of Ministers then discussed the regrettable incidents that resulted from last Monday's [13 September's] demonstrations in which a number of people were killed or wounded. The Council expressed sorrow for the shedding of virtuous blood. The prime minister said: Lebanon, and particularly its government, regrets every sad Lebanese teardrop, let alone blood. He called for realism and wisdom so that the country will not be dragged into oneupmanship that may, against our will, harm stability, security, and civil peace. He stressed that our duty is to preserve our country and realize the risks that threaten us and not to base our conduct on imagination and illusion. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij stressed that his decision to suspend his duties was not a departure from the ministerial solidarity. He renewed his commitment to all Council of Ministers decisions and his eagerness to implement them with full responsibility. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what will the government do if [words indistinct]. Has this been discussed?

[Dallul] The Council of Ministers still adheres to its position banning demonstrations and gatherings out of concern for the safety of the homeland and for the national unity at this particular stage.

[Correspondent] So, there is no change?

[Dallul] There is no change. When there is a pressing issue calling for such a thing, a request must be submitted [words indistinct], as happened in the rally held to commemorate the anniversary of Imam Musa al-Sadr's disappearance. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah on Authority's 'Suppression' of People

NC1809072093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The crime that the authorities' instruments have committed against our people—the crime that killed and wounded scores of people—will continue to be a nightmare haunting the country. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has ridiculed the committees that will investigate the crime, saying that they will cover up for the perpetrators. He said the murderer was not the one who fired the shot but rather the one who gave the orders.

Fadlallah said that some officials will go as far as burning down the country merely to settle their accounts with others. He said the government is as good as resigned in the people's eyes, even if it did not actually resign, because we know that certain circumstances preclude its resignation.

Shaykh Fadlallah called for a united stand that insists on freedom.

He responded to official claims that the suppression of the demonstration was designed to protect the state's dignity and domestic security. He asked: Is the state's dignity protected by murdering the people? He remarked that previous demonstrations had never caused damage. What happened was obviously murder in cold blood against unarmed demonstrators, Fadlallah said. If the demonstrators were armed, would local security have been saved and the issue settled peacefully, he asked.

Fadlallah remarked that Lebanon is rapidly heading toward conciliation with the Zionist enemy on the enemy's and the CIA's terms so that it can demonstrate its credibility and efficiency in suppressing its own popular powers.

Al-Asad: Secret Israel-PLO Contacts 'Unjustified'

JN2009193493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has expressed reservations about and criticism of the PLO-Israel agreement in a statement to the Cairo-based AL-AKHBAR:

The Syrian president believes that the secret contacts held between Israel and the PLO prior to the announcement of the agreement were unjustified and that the Palestinians—like the Arabs—became the losing party following the signing. He noted that every point in the agreement needs an agreement. Therefore, we said that the Palestinian people have a right to decide what is appropriate, al-Asad said. He added that Syria neither supported nor opposed agreement, expressing regret over the collapse of coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process following the signing of the agreement, which he described as a painful surprise for the Syrians. He added that the agreement keeps everything in the hand of Israel, which he strongly attacked and accused of obstructing the peace process through presenting partial solutions and implementing partial withdrawals.

The Syrian president said that Israel's refusal to relinquish the Golan and its failure to fully withdraw from the occupied Syrian territory, within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace, show that it wants to impose a fait accompli and that it wants to make the Arabs accept its aggressive plans, partial solutions, and separate deals.

He said: In no way will Syria accept the peace sought by Israel—that is, to acquire both land and peace. He added that the chances for peace are now better than they were before, because of the current international situation and because of the increasing number of people who want peace even inside Israel itself.

Regarding the criticism Israel directed at Syria because it shelters the Palestinian organizations opposed to the self-rule agreement in the occupied territory, the Syrian president said: How can we prevent them if they stand against Israel's policy on something related to the crux of their cause? Al-Asad asked: If the Israeli Prime Minister could not prevent the Likud Party from opposing the agreement, how could he ask Syria to silence the Palestinians opposing this agreement?

Paper on Israeli 'Threats,' Need For Peace

JN2109081893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Peace It Wants," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Since the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed at the U.S. White House, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been repeating that Syria does not want peace and is working against peace. Rabin also said that if Damascus really wants to prove otherwise, all it has to do is silence the Palestinians opposed to the agreement, disarm the national resistance in Lebanon, as well as other things.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria went to Madrid because it was convinced of the serious efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The paper affirms that Syria is extremely concerned for serious and honest work to establish true peace in the region. The sound and accurate document presented by Syria to the Israeli side in the sixth round of peace talks refutes the allegations by Rabin and other Israeli officials. The document's fifth article provides for a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan in accordance with both the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. This principle was laid by the U.S. Administration, which launched the peace initiative and is its basic cosponsor.

AL-BA'TH continues: As is known, Israel refused to discuss the Syrian document's fifth article because it provides for full withdrawal. Israel also procrastinated and maneuvered until the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed. Israel then moved to a new phase of implicit and explicit threats against Syria.

AL-BA'TH adds: We reaffirm that Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace, and actually works for peace. However, it is impossible for Syria to play the role of guard to protect Israel and the Israelis. Syria is not the custodian of anyone. Moreover, the Palestinian masses have the right to express their opinion about their future. The paper stresses that Syria, as always, will support the Palestinian people until they regain all their rights.

With regard to the Lebanese national resistance, Syria frequently said that the resistance of occupation is a right acknowledged by the entire international community. The paper points out that had Israel been serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, it would at least have announced its commitment to implementing the UN resolutions, specifically a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Syria will continue to work for real peace in the region based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Commentary Rejects 'Provocative' Israeli Demands

JN2009154793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Apparently fascinated with the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel is under the illusion that Arab doors are now open for it to ask for whatever it wants and for its demands to be met.

Since that agreement, which gave Israel the undeserved image of a country that really wants peace and which has

incorrectly been considered an achievement or a historic victory, Israel has been making provocative demands of certain Arab parties collectively and individually.

Sometimes, Israel asks certain parties to check or deter any opposition to this agreement by any Palestinian or non-Palestinian party. It urges other parties to accelerate the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel in order to reassure and win the support of the Israeli people, and to pave the way for more agreements. At the same time, it asks all Arabs to cancel their economic boycott. A long list of Israeli demands based on ridiculous justifications have been made, such as the argument that after Gaza-Jericho agreement Israel needs some help in order to digest what it has swallowed, and the Arabs should meet these demands to let it enjoy this digestion. Otherwise, it claims, the process may falter and Israel may abandon the agreement, and then the Arabs will lose what they are originally losing with this agreement.

It is clear, that all Israeli demands are not based on logic or sound justification. In return for what should the Arabs meet all these Israeli demands? Has a single sign been given so far, since the peace process began—and despite Gaza-Jericho agreement—indicating that the Israeli aggressiveness, which has been behind all wars in the Arab region, was eased or deterred? Has Israel shown any readiness to abide by the international legitimacy that forces it to end its occupation of the Arab territories it usurped through its repeated aggression? Has the repression and terrorism stopped in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and in every part of occupied Arab territories? The answer to all these questions is known to all Arabs, and we do not think any Arab can accept these demands or Israeli conditions unless the Arab demands are met in return, none of which has been met so far.

What boldness is this? Is there any provocation or pride greater than this provocation, where the aggressor party asks his victim to meet all his wishes and dictates before making even a sign that it has changed some of its aggressive nature, and that it is really sincere in its talk about peace or its wish to have peace?

Doesn't the acceptance of these Israeli conditions by any Arab mean the full relinquishment of Arab rights that have been approved by the resolutions of international legitimacy and rejection of the principles necessary to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region?

We do not have the slightest doubt that the Arabs are well aware of the background and dimensions of these Israeli dictates, and that no matter how much their situation deteriorates, they will never relinquish the basic rights to which they have adhered over the years of the Arab-Israeli conflict and which have been approved by international law.

Al-Shar' Returns From Cairo, Meets UAE Counterpart

JN2009173693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 20 Sep (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Cairo today after participating in the 100th session of Arab League Council, which convened at the ministerial level.

Al-Shar' met with Rashind 'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on the sidelines of the council meetings.

Discussions dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Clash Between Rival Forces in Kabul Reported

LD2009101093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Throughout last night the forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and Jam'iat-e Eslami [Islamic Party] were engaged in attacking each other's positions in east Kabul, using rockets and artillery fire.

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, this was the second intense clash during the past week between these forces in the same area. The report also indicates that since this morning the number of armored vehicles and military personnel has increased in Kabul's sensitive areas. However, the situation is calm and normal life continues in the city.

Gen. Majid: Country 'Cannot Bear Further Gunfire'

LD1909204293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] General 'Abdol Majid, the commander of Afghanistan's National Islamic Movement forces, announced today that the policy of this movement is to persuade the leaders of the jihad parties and the political factions of Afghanistan to unite for the sake of the country's peace and stability.

Speaking to our correspondent in Kabul, General Majid said: During the 14 years of occupation, followed by 15 months of civil war among the rival jihad forces, Afghanistan has seen so much destruction that it cannot bear to hear the sound of gunfire. While denouncing any form of clash among the jihad forces of Afghanistan, General Majid added: We believe no jihad party can alter the power equation in its own favor, no matter how hard it tries.

About relations between the National Islamic Movement and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], General Majid said: These two are natural allies and the Movement is united with the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami in all fields.

Rabbani Addresses Constitutional Commission

LD2009214293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1645 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Speech by Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, at first official meeting of commission for approving a draft temporary constitution, in Golkhana Palace in Kabul on 20 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The victory of our nation opened the windows of hope everywhere. Faithful nations, oppressed nations, and nations who lived in the chains of atheist oppression, barbarism, and faithlessness found themselves in the new phase of their political and social life as a result of the victory of our Islamic revolution. Many nations found the opportunity to find their history and culture once again. The map of the world changed and the disabled nations who were in the chains of atheist masters, found a new feeling of life. [passage omitted]

Of course incidents took place after the formation of our Islamic state—incidents that were unexpected and that emanated from outside our borders. Their goal was to prevent the glory and greatness of this revolution and prevent the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan and the jihad of our faithful nation from becoming a source of leadership and inspiration for other nations. Our country came face to face with great problems. A large number of our enemies, in various places, became pleased. However, our friends—those nations who hoped and are hoping—that Afghanistan and the gains of jihad of the Afghan nation would be a light like a torch on their path for ever, became sad and sorrowful. Of course widespread propaganda against our jihad and against our faithful nation was unleashed, similar to that which take place against every Islamic revolution. Nevertheless we should not overlook one thing, and that is all the painful incidents that took place after the formation of the Islamic state, should not be counted on behalf of the Islamic revolution and the great gains of the Islamic revolution. The mistakes and accounts that have been committed by individuals or groups after the victory of the Islamic revolution, belong to themselves and to the groups that have carried out incorrect deeds.

However, our nation, our jihad and the great gains of our Islamic revolution will remain a source of guidance and a source of light for all Muslims and all freedom seekers for ever. No one has the right to stain and undermine this part of the great history of our nation as a result of the wrongful incidents that took place—because such incidents and exceptions take place in every human society as unpleasant facts. We should not allow as a result of the painful incidents the grand history of our jihad, the heroism of our faithful nation to be questioned, or this page which has been written in golden letters to be recorded in history or in the eyes of others negatively as a consequence of the propaganda by our enemies or as a result of the incorrect deeds of individuals from among us. We thank God that, notwithstanding problems against which our Islamic state and Islamic society was faced, once again sympathetic leaders, heroic and self-sacrificing mojahedin took various decisions to solve problems, and great efforts were made to prevent further catastrophes. Meetings in Islamabad, Jalalabad, and numerous meetings inside the country were held, and currently we are in a new political and social phase of our life. We hope that after this we will not witness catastrophic incidents. We expect, and our faithful friends and our nation expect, wherever they are, that after this the catastrophic incidents of the past should not be repeated.

Today and under the present conditions of the Islamic revolution and that of our administrative, political, and social conditions, and for the sake of regulating affairs, once again a number of our aware and sympathetic brothers took steps toward organizing and directing various affairs so that all our people will become confident that their Islamic state is carrying out its administrative, social, political and economic affairs on the basis of certain principles and disciplines.

In our Islamic society in the existence of the highest and greatest source of human guidance, the holy Koran and the hadith [sayings] of the prophet Muhammad, no legal void whatsoever exists and would not exist whatsoever. [passage omitted] We Muslims are relying on and are faithful to the book of God and the sunnah [customs] of the dear prophet, peace be upon him. No sort of legal void in our society ever existed or exists now. However, the regulation of laws in an Islamic society through the utilization of the source of guidance of the holy Koran and the sunnah of the prophet—this is also another part of the sunnah of our dear prophet. The first comprehensive constitution in the history of mankind was the constitution of Medina. Before that not in the Roman society and nor in other societies had such a comprehensive law existed that regulated all national, international, political and administrative affairs in such comprehensive way like that in the Medina constitution. [passage omitted]

[Words indistinct] a draft of a temporary constitution was prepared and so that this draft could be assessed and discussed by a further number of dear personalities of our country, a number of brothers who are present here and a number of others who are probably not in Kabul will also take part at this meeting. Comprehensive discussion will take place by our dear and esteemed scholars over the draft of the constitution, and after that the decision will be made by the commission. Basic principles and discipline that organize the direction of work for the state and various organs will be declared. [words indistinct]

Afghanistan has been the center of attention of many countries of the world after the victory of the Islamic revolution.

We have many problems. To solve our problems, our nation should propose great initiatives, as it did in the past during the long years of jihad. In the field of military campaigns, during the time of obtaining our freedom and independence, the time of our country's reconstruction, and the time of safeguarding the gains of jihad and our Islamic revolution, our nation came out with initiatives and heroism. Once again, our nation should present great gains to our Islamic society in Afghanistan and to mankind.

We should remember that the incidents that took place in our country are not uncommon in history, when one political and administrative order confronts the Islamic political order. [passage omitted]

The problems and misfortunes left to us from the past atheist regime are heavier compared to other countries' problems. However, we and our faithful nation, God willing, once again will prove that with our own initiative, without any outside interference, we will solve our own problems. We will once again establish security throughout Afghanistan and start the reconstruction of our country intensively. We hope the beginning of an all-round, nationwide peace in the country has begun with the constructive act you dear brothers have embarked upon.

Of course our dear brothers know very well the present conditions under which we live. It is possible every brother will put forward proposals, views, and initiatives. We are confident you brothers will welcome every constructive proposal. We should try to strengthen our national unity. Of course our basic principles are one step toward a legal movement in our country. However, we have many phases in front of us. After we have chosen representatives, we shall take fundamental steps. These steps, to be taken by councils authorized by the people through elections, will, afterwards, form the constitution. All the peoples' demands and aspirations will be met by the council, which will make the constitution. All demands, initiatives, hopes, and views will be reflected. Now, we are in an interim phase. Of course our present need is how to organize our administrative, social, and political concerns. [passage omitted]

We should discuss and make use of all means, provided they do not contradict the Koran and Sonah [ways] of the prophet. Whatever we can find anywhere we can utilize. However, we are confident that our greatest assets are our own bills and laws from the Fiqh [Islamic law] of Islam, which have been used by many countries.

Rabbani Delivers Speech to Administration Conference

LD1909165393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at administration guidance conference for senior state officials in presidential palace; date not given; reception poor throughout—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Dear brothers, sisters, guests and esteemed audience, peace be upon you. At the beginning I cordially thank Professor Zmarai and his colleagues for arranging this conference on giving direction to managerial affairs in administrative organs of the country. Sure, it is a fact that everyone knows that Islam and the lofty teaching of Islam introduce the issue of organization not only as a worshipping matter but also as an inseparable part of the lofty teachings of the religion. [passage omitted]

In our Islamic society it is our duty to learn anything for the betterment of administrative and organization affairs of the Islamic society anywhere it is available.

Unlike some other systems, Islam is not a dogmatic and bigoted system that will not accept anything that is not its own. Islam welcomes any better initiative wherever it comes from. Things that benefit Islamic society and are not against Islamic values will be adopted or anything that is good for human beings and Islamic society. It is a reality that does not clash with Islamic culture. But anything that is forbidden by Islam, truly that thing will definitely be harmful either to human morale or to the social order. Thus any forbidden [haram] matter poses a threat to social life. [passage omitted]

We saw that while Muslims fought Iran, 'Umar [the second caliph] transferred Iran's system of administration and ordered that books on census and administration of Iran be translated. Under the supervision of the caliph himself all of Iran's administrative system was translated.

In Islam science is not subordinate to religion. Science is left to develop within itself, and politics does not whip scientists into line but chooses a sound and fruitful direction for scientists. On this basis, we see that Islam fully adopts all values that are good for Muslims and human society, and develops them.

As victors, Muslims will not impose all their ideas, as dominant values, on a defeated people, as it is common with colonial powers who transferred to the conquered people their ideas and culture, even their clothes and the way they eat. On the contrary, in Islam we see things differently from the colonial powers. When Muslims enter a society as victors they transfer good Islamic values to that society and adopt that society's good values, and a kind of conciliation movement takes place between them. For other conquerors, the purpose of victory is not only to rule and occupy countries but also to eliminate all traces of others' culture. [passage omitted]

In the work we have started in our Islamic country, there are judgements to be made and standards to be laid down about how to organize affairs and how to make appointments. Should decisions be based on one's commitment or one's expertise; this means, do we give a job to a mojahed who knows nothing about administration but is a great mohajed, or to a person who is expert but does not believe in those [Islamic] values.

In this respect Islam chooses very practical ways. It values both commitment and expertise. It never ignores expertise because it is a duty [amant] to give a job to an expert. But besides expertise, commitment should also be valued. Thus, Islamic society tries to secure an expert's commitment to the Islamic regime in order that he can do something valuable.

We have often noted that our scholar and expert brothers can now participate in the conduct of affairs with mojahedin, even though they did not spend a single day in the trenches with mojahedin. Doors are not closed to them. Mojahedin, who had important jobs in the past, will now leave jobs in the hands of those who have the capability to engage in work and administration. They should not think that because in the past they were in the trenches, they alone should sit behind a desk as an administrator.

We have called on scholars and experts before, and we call on them once again to take part in the restructuring of our country along with the mojahedin because their expertise is no less important than the work of a mojahed who fought in the trenches. It has been the policy of the Islamic State to call on experts. We have not announced that those who were not with us yesterday cannot participate in the administration of government. We said that those who were not with us yesterday can stay beside us, provided they observe the Islamic order and administration, and undertake major responsibilities. [passage indistinct]

It is our duty to use in our Islamic state what we ourselves have. Our mojahedin should learn from the experts, and the experts should create an atmosphere of peace and freedom and fraternity by their commitment to Islamic goals, in order that members of our society will stand by one another as committed and experienced people and will do useful and valuable work for the reconstruction of our country.

There are some countries—and were some regimes [in Afghanistan]—which employ foreign experts instead of encouraging their own experts. In the former regime, you know, there was a foreign adviser in every office. [Words indistinct], let alone the advisers who were but spies and members of the KGB. But they supervised everything.

In our Islamic state, we call, as we have done many times, on all our experts, whether they worked with the former regime or are living abroad as refugees to come and take part in restructuring their country. Irresponsible criticisms do not solve problems. People live in remote countries and cause trouble. Irresponsible interviews with the BBC will not cure the pain of this deprived nation. Why do those who live in foreign countries and criticize the present situation not take the trouble to come and stay with an orphan and a widow and search with them search for a solution.

Irresponsible criticism does not help the campaign against administrative corruption. Certainly, we conceded this right to them, even when emergency conditions did not permit us to allow everyone to talk—even our radio. We have a number of newspapers, and the pulpits in our mosques can all freely criticize everyone, criticize ministers, criticize the cabinet, government officials. This is a positive freedom the Islamic state has given to everyone.

(?We have not sealed the mouth of anyone), and have not restricted the freedom of anyone. Therefore those who are really interested in the country and are eager to take part in social reform and in the restructuring of the country and the elimination of current problems should not limit their responsibility to a couple of irresponsible words in a foreign newspaper or on a foreign radio. No purpose will be served by all their words and nationalist

emotions and patriotism sentiments [words indistinct] meaningless and worthless criticism to please the enemies of Islam and to worry and dismay their oppressed people and nation.

We express our gratitude to all our scholar brothers in all state organs in defense, in security, in medicine, in engineering, and in other fields, who have stayed in the country on low salaries despite the bad conditions. We certainly consider them nationalist elements. Those who live outside the country and make criticisms are not nationalist elements. In fact, they are very incompetent people who only want to supply grist to the mill of our enemies. [passage omitted]

In making appointments, we should consider both expertise and commitment as very important values. I am sure that our brothers in charge observe those two elements.

Dear brothers, we should campaign against corruption in its all forms. Whether small or great, a job is sacred. We should not consider any job less important than others. [passage omitted]

We should carry out a duty as an act of worship. We should not just perform a function for its own sake but also for the sake of serving Islamic society. We can worship God behind a desk just as we can in a mosque. [passage omitted]

We should do all work as well as we can [words indistinct]. We should devote every day, every month in Islamic society to improving the form and content of work. In the age of computers, we should not content ourselves with systems that have been handed down from the stone age. [passage omitted]

We should conduct a serious campaign against corruption in administration and against the idea that some jobs are unimportant. A Muslim will face the judgment of history, the judgement of God, and the judgement of the Prophet. We may escape one of these judgements, but we cannot escape the others. We may escape the attention of the head of our department, but we cannot escape the watch and judgement of the Prophet. One cannot escape the watching eyes of the prophet. [passage omitted]

Therefore, in an Islamic environment responsibility is so exacting that one cannot escape punishment. If one escapes the law and the public prosecutor, one cannot escape the attention and punishment of God. So we should obey Islamic principles and values. [passage omitted]

We should utilize any positive system of any country that is aimed at reforming management. But the import of cultures, the import of technology or science (?can bring its own problems). [passage indistinct]

We cannot bring in progressive technology with our limited organizational skills. When we bring in technology, we must see which kind we can use. To bring in complicated systems for which we do not have (?trainers) or about which we do not have sufficient knowledge may not be successful in Afghanistan. We should not blindly bring in various administrative and scientific systems for which we do not yet have experts. Some countries have encountered problems because they imported all kinds of complicated systems before they had the scientific knowledge about these systems. Their economies suffered hugely. In the period of restructuring, we should make sure which systems we can benefit from.

What kind of irrigation system, for example, should be applied? [passage indistinct] We have special talents in this country. We saw those talents with our doctors. We praise that young doctor who treated a brother whose heart (?was pierced by a bullet). We sent our pilots to Pakistan to help with relief work there after the flood. The Pakistanis were astounded by the achievements of those pilots there because they flew food to places where Pakistani pilots were not able to fly. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that we have many problems, but we should not spend our whole time complaining about them. Certainly, the crimes of those who created these problems are part of history. Those who committed crimes, those who ruined the country—any one who did so—were seen by God and by history. Yet we should not keep the idea of a perpetual war as an unholy wish in our heart; and we should not mention some situations to one another. Ill shall learn from ill. [previous sentence in Arabic] Yes, we will criticize misdeeds, but not in such a way as to insult people all the time. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Financial, Security Issues

LD1909210093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] A cabinet meeting chaired by esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan was held this morning at the temporary headquarters of the prime ministry in Charasiab.

The prime ministry press department told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] correspondent that the meeting discussed various economic, political, security, and reconciliation issues, and heard a number of proposals put forward by ministers.

While approving a series of important matters, the ministers decided that proposals for an increase in the price of (?valued) documents, and a tax on [word indistinct], and vehicles are acceptable in principle. It was also decided that the Ministries of Finance, [name indistinct] Affairs, and Trade will approve the exchange rate between the afghani [Afghan currency] and the [words indistinct] and foreign currency. An increase in the price of 115 items of (?prized) documents such as tax on contracts and the [word indistinct] of vehicles from the beginning of the current year is [word indistinct].

The ministers discussed the fate of refugees who have been displaced from their homes in provinces, and

decided that the Defense Ministry's commission is duty bound to make it possible for the refugees to return safely to their homes.

Finally, the cabinet decided that all ministries and state establishments will settle their accounts with the Finance Ministry [words indistinct].

Commission Permits Unrestricted Sale of Fuel

LD1909190293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] The distribution of gasoline and diesel will begin in the near future to Kabul citizens through Kabul city gas stations. This was said by esteemed Mohammad Khalil Zohad, minister of transport and head of the foodstuffs and fuel commission, to a correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY. The commission decided that diesel can be distributed to compatriots without restrictions at a price of 300 afghanis per liter and gasoline at a price of 700 afghanis per liter.

Esteemed Zohad added that the distribution of coal to civil servants has begun, and that 500 kg coal can be distributed to every civil servant at a price of 7,500 afghanis.

Trucks Arrive in Kabul With Fuel for Ministries

LD1909220293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] A source for the commission for obtaining and distributing foodstuffs and fuel told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the program for the transfer of coal needed by Kabul citizens is to be completed by 26 Mizan of the current year [18 October]. The source added that 60 trucks carrying coal have arrived in Kabul which have been distributed to the ministries in line with previous decisions. Also a delegation headed by Minister of Transport esteemed Mohammad Khalil Zohad left for Baghlan Province today to speed up the transport of coal and eliminate obstacles in this way in Karkar and [word indistinct].

Shiite Leader Pledges Efforts To 'Liberate' Jerusalem

LD1909212593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] The leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] of Afghanistan ['Abdol 'Ali Mazari] issued a statement announcing: The first qiblah [Jerusalem] of the Muslims belongs to all the Muslims in the world, and cleansing it from the sinister presence of the usurper Israel is the obligation of every individual Muslim.

In another part of the statement, the Tel Aviv-PLO agreement was condemned and rejected. He stated: the Islamic Unity Party will not refrain from any efforts to liberate the first qiblah of the Muslims to the last drop of its blood, alongside the resistant Muslims of the world.

Bangladesh

Newspaper Office Attacked; 'At Least' 4 Injured

BK1809080693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 18 (AFP)—Gunmen bombed and attacked a Bangladeshi newspaper office, leaving at least four journalists injured, according to reports here Saturday [18 September].

Publishers of the Bengali-language daily Ajker Kagoj newspaper said up to 25 home-made bombs were detonated and three shots fired at their Dhanmandi area office late Friday. At least four journalists, including the news editor, were injured in the attack, the newspaper said. It claimed that the attackers belonged to the Islami Chatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party, although no independent confirmation was available.

The attack came in the wake of a news item published Friday alleging ICS members were receiving weapons training to gain control of two Bangladeshi universities, the Kagoj said. It also claimed the attackers later telephoned asking: "How did you like it? Is our training all right?"

Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

In August, the mass circulation Daily Ittefaq newspaper and the opposition daily Banglar Bani newspaper were also bombed, but no one claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Country To Export Rice for First Time

BK1809101793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 16 Sep 93 p 1

[By Osman Ghani Mansoor]

[Text] For the first time, Bangladesh has received orders for the export of 60,000 tons of rice, worth about $15 million, after competing in the international market. Of this amount, 30,000 tons of rice will be exported to Kenya at a rate of $250 per ton; Rumania will import 20,000 tons at a rate of $240 per ton while Jordan will import 5,000 tons at a rate of $250 per ton.

Rumania has given a proposal for the export of this rice under the barter trade agreement. Many other countries, including Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia, have also expressed their desire to import rice from Bangladesh. These countries are now ascertaining the quality of the rice and holding negotiations regarding the price.

In the meantime, the recently constituted Export Cell of the Food Ministry has examined the orders given by Kenya, Rumania, and Jordan and has forwarded its recommendations to the concerned authority, seeking its clearance for the export. Following a decision taken by a high-level government committee, the Food Ministry has sent proposals for exports of rice to about 50 countries during the past few months. Several of these countries have responded and expressed their willingness to import different varieties of rice. Malaysia has shown interest in importing a superior quality rice at the rate of $850 per ton. A British nongovernmental organization has also asked for the supply of 100 tons of superior quality rice every month. However, these orders are not being considered as the cost of superior quality rice is much higher in the domestic market.

It may be mentioned that at present over 150,000 tons of surplus rice is stored in the government-owned godowns. During the current season the government has taken up a plan to procure 300,000 tons of rice from the farmers. When the government took the initiative to export rice early this year, it fixed the export price of medium quality rice at $270 per ton. But it is not getting a favorable response as the price of rice in the international market has declined.

Sources said that at present Vietnam has also become a member of the rice exporting countries of the world. Last year, it exported about four million metric tons of rice. Even the UNHCR bought 18,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam for the Rohingya [Burmese] refugees in Bangladesh. Later, the Bangladeshi Food Ministry sold about 55,000 metric tons of rice to the UNHCR for the refugees.

Informed sources said that this year, as there has been a bumper production of paddy in Bangladesh, the government should take into consideration the issue of giving a fair price to the farmers. It should also motivate the farmers to produce superior quality paddy in accordance with the demand of the international market.

Paper Reports Export Earnings Rise in Jul

BK1809070393 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 93 p 7

[Text] The country earned Tk. [taka] 907.21 crore equivalent to 229.50 million U.S. dollars from export in the first month of the current fiscal year (1993-94), an official source said on Thursday [9 September], reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

The amount is 31.71 percent in Taka and 29.01 percent in dollar higher than the export earning in July last year which stood at Tk. 688.79 crore (U.S. dollar 177.89 million).

The export target for the current fiscal year has been fixed at Tk. 11,600 crore equivalent to 2,900 million U.S. dollar.

The source said export earnings in the first month of the FY [fiscal year] 1993-94 also marked an increase over the earning in the previous month (June) when the country earned Tk. 884.59 crore (U.S. dollar 223.78 million) from export.

Export earnings from primary and industrial products in July this year stood at 39.39 million U.S. dollars and 190.11 million dollars respectively recording rise of 56.50 percent and 24.48 percent over that of the corresponding period last year.

Some 27.83 million U.S. dollar and 150.06 million dollar were earned through export of traditional and non-traditional items during the period, registering 11.10 percent and 32.33 percent increase over the earnings in July of the last fiscal year.

Earnings from the export of jute and jute goods and other products during the period increased to 21.39 million U.S. dollars and 202.39 million dollar respectively.

A total of 74 products were exported to 71 countries in last July. The United States was the largest importer of Bangladeshi products. Its import volume constituting 37.36 percent of the total export of Bangladesh.

The other major importing countries were Germany (9.55 percent), France (7.01), United Kingdom (5.76), Italy (5.71), Japan (4.68), Netherlands (3.79), Belgium (3.01), Singapore (1.89), and Iran (0.97).

These 10 countries imported 79.91 percent of the total export of Bangladeshi goods. The rest 20 percent were exported to 61 other countries.

Readymade garment was the highest foreign currency earner during the period with 55.35 percent of the total export earning. The other foreign exchange earners were frozen food (10.19 percent), jute products (9.16), knitwear (8.63), leather (4.65), raw jute (3.58), chemical products (2.39), tea (1.08), and handicrafts (0.33).

These products earned 95.36 percent and the rest 65 products earned 4.64 percent.

The price index increased by 0.28 percent in the month of July while the quantitative export rose by 28.73 percent. The income from frozen food, tea, raw jute and other primary products, chemical products, leather, knitwear, garment and handicrafts also rose during the period.

Ugandan Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

EA1709203093 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] The first deputy prime minister and national political commissar [Eriya Kategaya], has completed his five-day visit to Bangladesh where he led a government delegation to study the education system there and to identify possible areas of economic cooperation between

Uganda and Bangladesh. While in Bangladesh, Mr. Kategaya and his delegation visited and explored places of formal as well as non-formal education, particularly the world-celebrated Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee which is geared at adults who have have had no access to education.

Speaking at a farewell dinner hosted for him at the state guesthouse in Dhaka by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, Mr. Kategaya said that the Bangladesh system of education will be examined and its applicability to Uganda assessed. The Bangladeshi foreign minister said that salvation of developing countries lies in South-to-South cooperation. He said that the visit of the Ugandan delegation had been wonderful and is likely to usher in a better future for the two countries in terms of economic cooperation. The visit was organized by the UN educational fund, UNICEF [as heard].

While in Bangladesh, Mr. Kategaya met officials of the Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and discussed with them possible economic business and trade linkages that could be made between the two countries.

Mr. Kategaya later left for New Delhi, India, for another five-day visit.

India

Foreign Ministry Previews Rao Visit to Iran

BK1909120193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, is leaving New Delhi tomorrow for Tehran on a three-day official visit. A high-level delegation, including the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, is accompanying him. Mr. Narasimha Rao will hold talks with the Iranian president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani; the foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati; and other ministers relating to trade, commerce, heavy industry, and economics. Wide-ranging discussions on international, regional, and bilateral issues of mutual interest are likely to figure during his talks with the Iranian leaders.

Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, a senior official of the External Affairs Ministry said the visit is of significance as it aims at consolidating bilateral ties. Replying to questions, he said the visit will impart a new focus to New Delhi's foreign policy, its relations with ASEAN, and the countries of the Gulf region. Asked whether the Kashmir issue will figure in the talks, the spokesman said that India is prepared to discuss any issue and give appropriate response. He, however, clarified that Tehran has maintained that it does not support any attempt which is sought to question the territorial integrity of India.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Ramachandra Panigrahi, reports that Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit is the first by any Indian prime minister since the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979. It comes at a time when economic factors are dominating political decisions after the end of the cold war. The visit is in response to the long-standing invitation by the Iranian president and is part of the ongoing process of giving a new Asian dimension to India's foreign policy.

Significance of Visit Noted

BK2009042593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Commentary by Ramachandra Panigrahi]

[Text] The prime minister's three-day official visit to Iran from today comes at the most opportune time when Tehran is reported to be keen to strengthen relations with India and would like to be a partner with its oil projects in Central Asia. Considerable significance is being attached to Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit since Tehran is seeking New Delhi's cooperation in rebuilding its economy after the Iran-Iraq war. The visit also comes at a time when India is in the process of liberalizing its economy.

The prevailing atmosphere of friendship and cooperation no doubt hold out the promise for the two countries to embark on a new era of economic and trade ties. The prime minister, who is leading a high-level delegation, will hold wide-ranging discussions with the Iranian president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani; the foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati; and other top leaders. The preparatory work for the prime minister's visit was actually done when the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, was in Tehran sometime in July this year.

India has offered to share its experience and expertise in the fields of power, industry, trade, and agriculture. Tehran, on its part, has expressed keen interest in joint ventures with India. This was evident during the visit of the petroleum minister, Captain Satish Sharma, to that country in July and also the visit of the former commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, in October 1991 heading a business delegation. During the petroleum minister's visit, the two countries signed an agreement on the hydrocarbon sector and for setting up pipelines for supply of natural gas to India.

Iran's political relations with India are cordial and friendly. This was reflected when the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, had a meeting with the Iranian president during the nonaligned summit in Jakarta last year. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, during his brief halt in Tehran on way to Ukraine met his Iranian counterpart in a cordial atmosphere in July this year. The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, paid two visits to India last year. Tehran has assured New Delhi that it will never attempt on anything that would question India's territorial integrity.

Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit is the first by an Indian prime minister since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran. The

visit comes at a time when economic factors are dominating political decisions after the end of the Cold War. With this backdrop there is no doubt that the visit will be beneficial for both the countries and will infuse a fresh dynamism to India's foreign policy and its relations with ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] and the countries of the Gulf region.

Cultural Exchange Program Signed With Russia

BK2009101393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] India and Russia have signed the largest ever cultural exchange program for three years from 1993-95. The program envisages cooperation between the two countries in science and education, mass media, culture, youth affairs, and sports. It is a followup of an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation signed between the two countries during President Yeltsin's visit to India. An official release said increased cooperation in publication and journals [as heard] and interaction between the scientific and research institutes of the two countries and the exchange of cultural troupes are proposed under the program.

Editorial Hails Sino-Indian Border Accord

BK1909165493 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 8 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Agreement on Promotion of Tension-free Atmosphere"]

[Text] About five years ago, when Rajiv Gandhi visited China in December 1988, the single major outcome of that much talked-about visit was the establishment of a joint working group to hold talks on the border question. Both China and India have never had any doubts about the complex nature of their bilateral border dispute. While China has been occupying thousands of square miles of Indian territory on the other side, the Indian parliament had passed a resolution to take back every inch of Indian territory from China. In the face of these complexities, there was no major reason to believe that the working group would be able to achieve anything. The group had its sixth meeting in June this year. That means the group met six times in five years. That is why, it had begun to appear that the group was, perhaps, set up merely to create an illusion in the minds of people or just to pass the time.

It was not so. The working group has been doing its work quietly. This can be said after seeing the result that emerged in the form of an agreement on the border issue between India and China in Beijing yesterday. When will the border dispute be resolved? The answer cannot necessarily be derived from this minor agreement. One, however, can definitely say by looking at this agreement that the two countries have now come to realize that the border issue can be resolved only at the realistic level of pragmatism and in the spirit of give-and-take, rising above emotions and preconceptions.

The two countries do not want to do anything on the border, which may increase tension or create mutual distrust. This thing had started to emerge soon after the meeting of the joint working group in June this year. The two sides not only do not want war, but in view of the existing political scenario in Asia and the rest of the world and the respective geopolitical situations of India and China, there does not seem to be any possibility or rationale for war between them. It is, therefore, only natural that the two countries should take steps to maintain peace along the border—the line along which the troops of the two countries are stationed—so that bilateral exchanges in the areas of trade, culture, and science could begin and continue without any interruption. The accord signed yesterday is important in the sense that it will help keep the existing border peaceful, calm, and tension-free. The agreement also contains a blueprint of the ways and means to maintain peace and a tension-free atmosphere. The observers of the two countries will jointly remove differences wherever they occur. If yesterday's agreement is implemented successfully in a desired manner, then it will undoubtely make a contructive contribution to the resolution of the border dispute. With this point of view, even this limited agreement can be considered an example of the growing understanding between India and China.

G-7 Countries Seen Trying To Disarm India

BK2009082593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 93 p 11

[By Jasjit Singh]

[Text] The G-7 countries are reported to have cautioned/advised India recently against development of the Agni [fire] intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) and the deployment of the 250 km range Prithvi [earth] surface-to-surface missiles. That a similar demarche was also issued to Pakistan does not really make it any more legitimate, or realistic. In fact, this only underlines the basic flaw, intended or otherwise, in the U.S. and G-7 position of taking a lopsided view of the problem and, therefore, its solution.

At the outset it must be stated and understood very clearly that ballistic missiles are a factor of instability, and a threat to India's security interests. Therefore, it would be in our interests to see that all such missiles (or at least those that are likely to place India within their range) are eliminated. But the problem is that China deployed its missiles more than two decades ago, and the Chinese supplied 2,700 km range IRBMs to Saudi Arabia in 1988, and these have been upgraded recently. ICBMs [intercontinental ballistic missiles] and other missiles continue to be deployed in Central Asia. More than 500 ballistic missiles are estimated to be still in Afghanistan, and serious uncertainties exist about who controls them. Pakistan is certainly likely to have had access to them now with the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence]-protege as the Prime Minister in Kabul, if not during the past three-odd years.

Pakistan itself demonstrated the 300-km range Hatf [deadly]-II missile in 1989; and has been developing the 600-km Hatf-III. At the same time, according to U.S. (administration report to the Congress) China has been continuing to support Pakistani missile programme. Many Pakistani experts had asserted as early as October 1991 that the Chinese supplied M-11 missiles had been integrated into the Pakistani military. The demarches, in particular the UK Government's note, seems to ignore these realities, especially the fact that the prestigious International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, in its annual publication—Military Balance 1992-93, released in October 1992 had reported that 18 Hatf-I/II were deployed with the Pakistani army.

The problem with missiles is that there are no effective and credible defence systems available at present or in the foreseeable future, especially in the developing world. This is why U.S. (and G-7) actions appear to be aimed at disarming India. On the other hand, the G-7 action also raises a fundamental question: Will the U.S. and its allies be willing to include India amongst the countries sharing the development and deployment of anti-missile defence systems? If not, surely the U.S. must show adequate sensitivity to our security concerns. This becomes extremely important when the U.S. and its other G-7 partners apply pressures on India without addressing the issue of ballistic missiles in the Asian region and Saudi Arabia.

It may be recalled that while negotiating the INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) Treaty (signed in 1987), the U.S. and G-7 partners had insisted that the Soviet Union must include its ballistic missiles in the Asian part of the Soviet Union, without seeking a corresponding obligation on the part of China. Even now the India- Pakistan coupling totally disregards the immediate regional security environment of India, leave alone the larger global realities. The G-7 position might have been more defensible if the demarches had been concurrently issued to China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan etc.—or for that matter, Israel, and other countries.

The report of the Clinton administration to the U.S. Congress three months ago on the subject of non-proliferation in South Asia had raised many hopes in India that the U.S. would be more sensitive to our security concerns. The report had stated that "dealing with nuclear and missile proliferation in South Asia will require that the U.S. and others take into account both Indian and Pakistani domestic political concerns and regional security threat perceptions, including those extending beyond the two countries themselves." This fundamental point seems to have been ignored by the administration in actual execution of policy.

The U.S., of course, had made it clear in the same report that it will seek the cooperation of its close allies/friends to apply pressures for non-proliferation (read disarmament?) in South Asia. But South Asia does not exist in isolation. One would like to understand the G-7 Governments' position how and why the deployment of the 250-km range Prithvi with a 500 kg weapon payload would have a greater "adverse effect on regional security" than the deployment of Chinese six missile armies with hundreds of missiles, Israeli missiles, the Saudi CSS-2 IRBMs, or the F-16, and Jaguar/Mirage-2000 aircraft which carry more to greater ranges in strike roles? Or are they preparing the ground for denying maintenance support for these aircraft? And what about the AJT (Advanced Jet Trainer) for which very high-pressure salesmanship has been going on by the UK and France? The British Hawk AJT, for example, is capable of delivering 3,000 kg weapon load to ranges of 500 km or more. The UK also could not be unaware that Lahore and Amritsar are within 40 km of the border; and nuclear weapons could be delivered on either side, theoretically, even by bullock-carts!

But to revert to the original issue, we need to clearly emphasise the basic point that we consider ballistic missiles a threat to our security, and in the absence of credible defences against them, we have no option but to try and create a defence capability through deterrence. At the same time we need to look for ways and means of increasing stability in the context of these parameters.

The idea of an Indo-Pakistan dialogue on the subject, which seems to be the thrust of the G-7 demarches, requires serious examination. The British Government seems to think that some sort of agreement which ensures that India and Pakistan would refrain from deploying missiles and making them operational would be required. However this approach is fundamentally flawed since, if implemented, it would leave India totally defenceless against the ballistic missiles already deployed around India.

Pakistan, understandably, has already expressed its willingness for a 'bilateral missile proliferation' agreement as reportedly suggested by its Foreign Minister to the U.S. Secretary of State soon after the G-7 demarches were issued to India and Pakistan. This is obviously a clever public relations ploy. Like the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] argument, Pakistan can be quite certain that India cannot possibly agree to this framework for reasons outlined above. More importantly, and for the reasons already stated, there is virtually no scope for any arms control measures (except in clearly defined terms which have no third country implications) between Pakistan and India. By emphasising the impossible, the G-7 would only erode their own credibility.

It is, however, possible to work out a series of confidence- building measures related to missiles so as to enhance stability between Pakistan and India. The most important of these would be to institute agreements for non-attack on population centres, economic targets, and chemical industry. And India should propose this at an early date so that it is on the agenda for a dialogue by the time an elected government is installed in Islamabad. Such an agreement would be a logical extension of the existing Indo-Pak agreement on non-attack on nuclear installations.

At the same time we need to put in place a bilateral agreement on non-use of nuclear, and missile capabilities against each other. This, by itself, would not be an adequate guarantee against use of missiles. But it will go a long way in establishing norms and inhibitions against their actual use. India and Pakistan should also affirm a mutual goal of jointly working for the universalisation of the INF Treaty (extending the lower range limit down to 50 km) as a preliminary step to the universal elimination of missiles. In a step by step approach, we could also accept the elimination of missiles from the continent of Asia and the contiguous oceans out to 5,500 km distances as an interim measure. At the same time, it must be noted that missiles cannot be taken out of the overall political and military context of inter-state relations. Near total absence of transparency in the military postures of almost all our neighbours militates against mutual trust and confidence. We need bilateral/multilateral agreements to enhance transparency.

The measures outlined above may not meet G-7 objectives fully. But they would be totally consistent with the ground realities and not only meet the essential requirements of legitimate security needs of India and Pakistan, but also establish the basis for a paradigm shift in the bilateral relationship which could, with time, make missiles and nuclear weapons redundant.

Launch of Polar Satellite Vehicle Unsuccessful

Failure of Launch Reported

BK2009080093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Efforts of the Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, to acquire indigenous launch vehicle was not successful as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle [PSLV] failed during its course of launching operations today. The PSLV which was blasted almost accurately at 1042 [0512 GMT] hours from the launch pad at Sriharikota in the east coast of Andhra Pradesh developed malfunctioning somewhere at 400 kilometers in space while it was on its transmission between third and fourth stage. Our Bangalore correspondent reports that details of the failure are awaited and the scientists of SHAR [Sriharikota High Altitude Range] center and other tracking facilties in different parts of the country are analyzing the causes.

Official: Flight 'Mixed Bag of Success'

BK2009161393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The first developmental flight of PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] had a setback due to an anomaly during the third stage propulsion. Consequently, the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite could not be launched into specific orbit. An ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] press release issued in Madras today says it ended in suborbital flight. The chairman of ISRO, Professor U.R. Rao, addressing newspersons after the launch at Sriharikota, said the flight was a mixed bag of success. He said during the mission, the functioning of a large number of complex vehicle systems proved successful. These included the first stage of the solid propulsion motor which is rated as the third largest in the world and the liquid propulsion second stage motor, both of which are important. Prof. Rao said for a first developmental flight, today's effort was extremely good. A clear picture of what happened will be available after a full analysis of all the data. Mr. Rao categorically stated that the PSLV program will continue, and the next flight is expected to be launched in a year or so.

'Partial Success' of Launch Hailed

BK2109045793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Commentary by S.K. Sheshachandrika]

[Text] For a developing country like India to venture into space technology is not just a matter of fancy but a necessity. This is what the founder of the Indian space program, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, had said two decades ago. He set two great ideals before our space scientists. The first to build our own satellites, and the second to strengthen efforts to acquire indigenous launching technology.

The partial success of the first development, the flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle—PSLV—yesterday is evidence of the determination of the Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] to fulfill the promise made to the nation. The PSLV flight which ended as a suborbital flight because of an anomaly during the third stage propulsion has been described by the ISRO chairman, Professor U.R. Rao, as a mixed bag of success.

The PSLV experiment was technologically a big challenge to the Indian space scientists in their efforts to achieve operational capability in satellite launch vehicles. It was by no means an easy task. Besides overcoming socioeconomic problems endemic to any developing country, our space scientists had to cross a number of hurdles. One example is the indigenous production of maraging steel. Scientists of the ISRO and Mishra Dhatu Nigam indigenized the manufacturing process of maraging steel for space technology and the rocket booster motor was made lighter. Another example is the indigenous development of the propellant system.

Yesterday's flight was a successful test for the liquid engine introduced in the Indian launch vehicles for the first time. Yet another major achievement was the perfect operation of the first and second stages. The Vikas engine performed well. The motors, the inertial navigation system, and the sequencing worked well. Indian space scientists are equally happy over the successful functioning of a number of other subsystem in PSLV's 650-second voyage. A clear picture of what caused the setback will be available after full analysis of the data.

The question before the country is whether the setback to the PSLV mission would affect the future launch programs including the GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle]. To this, the ISRO chairman has given a categorical answer. The perfect operation of the first and second stages of the PSLV, Professor U.R. Rao said, leaves us without any worry about the GSLV's first and second stages. We will have to develop only the cryogenic engine, which will be the third stage. It is refreshing to note that despite the momentary setback our space scientists are going ahead with work on the second PSLV flight which is slated for launch latest by next year.

Kashmir Paper Announces Suspension of Publication

BK1809094593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Sep 93 p 11

[Text] Srinagar—The Urdu daily of Kashmir, the daily AFTAB, on Friday [10 September] announced suspension of its publication for an "indefinite period," reports PTI [Press Trust of India].

In a front-page announcement, the management said the step was taken in the interest of "freedom of the press, protection of honour and satisfaction of conscience and in support of the ongoing movement."

In another item, the paper in Friday's issue said a pro-Pakistan militant outfit, Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen has summoned the editor of AFTAB, Sonaullah Bhat, "to appear before them within a week. The summon is under consideration of the AFTAB charitable trust, which runs the daily, and a decision on it is expected soon", it added.

Another newspaper of the valley, SRINAGAR TIMES, has not been coming out since August 28 following a ban imposed by the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front (JKSLF).

The controversy triggered off when the newspapers of the valley decided not to publish a statement issued by Inayatullah Indrabi, convenor of Mahaz-Elslami on August 28, critical of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.

All except SRINAGAR TIMES ignored the statement as the editors' conference had decided not to publish controversial statements.

The SRINAGAR TIMES, which carried the statement of Indrabi, was banned by JKSLF.

Railways, Ports, Airports Warned of Truckers' Strike

BK1909090693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] The government has alerted the railways, ports, and airports to take precautionary steps to prevent any disruption of the movement of goods by the striking truck operators. The transport secretary, Mr. S.P. Bagla, told our correspondent that the government will ensure that there is no shortage of essential commodities and the movement of goods is not affected. He reiterated the center's stand that the issue of the composite fee is a state subject and the center will not hold any negotiations with the truck operators on the issue. The truckers strike has entered the fourth day.

Iran

Ties With U.S. Said Against Islam's Interest

LD2009124393 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Bonn, Sept. 20, IRNA—Iran's ambassador here Hoseyn Musavian Monday said that resumption of diplomatic ties with the U.S. was not in the interest of the Islamic revolution and republic because of Washington's lack of good intention.

He told IRNA here that if mutual relations (between Tehran and Washington) were restored, the influence of the Islamic revolution on the Muslim world and nations would be weakened.

"We are not after tension with the U.S. rather believe in detente. [sentence as received] But, if the U.S. tries to blackmail us in major regional and international political issues, we will not be afraid of such tension," he stressed. The Iranian ambassador said the U.S. was likely to exert political and economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran because of Tehran's opposition to a compromise between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization.

Iran's stance on the issue of Palestine would strengthen its position in the world of Islam because such a position was adopted on behalf of one billion Muslims. He predicted that most Arab and Islamic countries would establish diplomatic ties with the Zionist regime after endorsing Israel-PLO self-rule accord.

The Iranian envoy noted that even those Arab countries which condemned the accord might endorse it and establish diplomatic ties with Israel if given their desired concessions.

For instance, he said, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn might endorse the accord in return for the lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad by the United Nations in retaliation for its 1990 occupation of Kuwait.

Further on Visit to Tehran by India's Rao

President, Rao Hold Talks 20 Sep

LD2009181293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Ways of expanding ties between Iran and India, as well as problems of central Asian and regional countries

and Kashmir were discussed at the first round of talks between Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon.

At the talks Narasimha Rao said: We praise the Iranian people for their perseverance, bravery and steadfastness in difficult conditions in recent years. We regard with respect the vast political and economic progress and the overcoming of big problems in Iran. He added: India and Iran, as two large and powerful countries, have constantly shown that they can maintain their sovereignty and national independence without foreign interference. This very important common denominator is a very good starting point for further expansion of cooperation.

Referring to new global developments the Indian premier said: We are passing through a wide spectrum of the results of global changes. The importance of this necessitates that Iran and India have an effect on the manner and form of those changes through more consultation and talks. For the two countries are undergoing economic reforms and concentrating their energy and national strength on speeding up the trend of progress and advancement.

Referring to the issue of Punjab and Kashmir the Indian prime minister said that it is a domestic problem for India. He said: We hope that in the future, with the help of the Islamic Republic of Iran, better talks about the issue will become possible with the new Pakistani government. For, because of the large Muslim population in India, we have always sought friendly ties with the Muslim world and we believe that the only practical way of overcoming problems is to clear misunderstandings through talks and consultation.

Referring to the fact that cooperation with a large country such as India has always been attractive to Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for cooperation in assisting central Asian countries, especially to enable them to have access to international routes. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is in favor of cooperation between countries in the Asian continent. Because of the existence of extremely invaluable potentials in countries in this continent, from the standpoint of rich mineral resources, population and industry, ways of achieving that cooperation should be given serious consideration.

About the problems in Kashmir he said: We are unhappy with the present situation in that region. We believe that the continuation of the status quo will not be beneficial to the people of India and her reputation and construction. He added: Considering the large Muslim population in India we would like the problems of Kashmir to be solved in such a way that there are no adverse effects on relations between India and the Muslim world.

Declaring Iran's readiness to help resolve the misunderstandings in Kashmir the president said: Achieving tripartite cooperation between Pakistan, India, and Iran is very important for the region. That important task would be accomplished if the present disputes are resolved. Closer cooperation between countries in the region will depend on goodwill and good neighborly relations between the two neighbors, India and Pakistan.

The president described as very valuable India's experience in the reconstruction and construction period. He added: We hope that, through closer cooperation with India, Iran will be able to pass through her reconstruction and economic development period with greater speed.

Further on Talks

LD2009193593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1900 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. P V Narasimha Rao, held wide- ranging discussions on international and regional issues with the Iranian President Mr. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran today. The prime minister has reiterated that Kashmir problem is an internal matter of India and it knows how to solve it. Mr. Rao pointed out that certain elements are trying to erode the territorial integrity of India. The matter came up during the two hour long talks Mr. Rao had with the Iranian president Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani in Tehran.

He said that India is a pluralistic and secular society and we consider all our minorities as valuable citizens. The minorities in India do not look outside for help.

Mr. Rao told the Iranian leader that New Delhi is willing to hold talks on the Kashmir issue with Pakistan after the elections are held in that country, provided the new government there will also desire to do so. Mr. Rafsanjani said that Iran regrets the situation in the Kashmir valley and has no intention to interfere in the internal affairs of India.

The two leaders dealt with international, regional and bilateral matters of mutual interest. The Iranian president said that there should be more cooperation among the countries of Central Asia. Both the leaders agreed that there should be more interaction between the countries of the region to develop mutual cooperation. They also agreed that New Delhi and Tehran can play a significant role in this direction. [passage omitted]

'Wide-Ranging' Talks Held

BK2009162993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, held wide-ranging discussions on international and regional issues with the Iranian president, Mr. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Tehran today. Mr. Rao told the Iranian leader that India is willing to hold talks on the Kashmir issue with Pakistan after elections are held in that country, provided the new government there also desires to do so. He said attempts are being made by certain elements to erode the territorial integrity of

India. Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran regrets the situation in Kashmir Valley and has no intention to interfere in the internal affairs of India.

Our special correspondent Avinash Goel reports from Tehran that the Iranian leaders made it clear that they attach special significance to the relations with India. The talks between Mr. Rao and Mr. Rafsanjani went on for two hours. Our correspondent also reports that political and diplomatic circles in Tehran are attaching great significance to the fact that Mr. Rafsanjani himself received Mr. Rao at the airport. Our correspondent Ramachandra Panigrahi, covering the prime minister's visit, reports that Mr. Narasimha Rao was accorded a warm reception when he arrived in Tehran this afternoon on a three-day visit to Tehran. Besides President Rafsanjani, the foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati; and members of the Iranian cabinet were present at the airport to receive him. Talking to newspersons at the airport, Mr. Rao referred to the age-old historic and cultural ties and the present satisfactory economic relations between India and Iran. Before leaving for Tehran, Mr. Rao told mediapersons in New Delhi this morning that his present visit to Iran is essentially a goodwill visit, and this is the first visit of any Indian prime minister after the Islamic revolution to that country in 1979.

Rao Meets Ahmad Khomeyni

LD2009183293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] This afternoon Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who is visiting our country at the head of a high ranking political- economic delegation, visited the immaculate shrine of His Holiness the Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted in paradise—and paid respects to the lofty personality of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran by laying a wreath on his tomb.

He then met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and termed as positive the trend of talks with the officials of our country. He expressed hope that a new chapter will be opened in relations between the two countries.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, at the meeting, pointed to the longstanding relations between Iran and India and the undeniable impact of Persian language and literature on the cultural heritage of India. [passage omitted] He noted also that because of the region in which they are situated, the two countries share extensive cultural factors in common which, he hoped, will be counted as a good foundation for strengthening bilateral relations.

At the end of the visit, Mr. Narasimha Rao, signed the visitors' book at the immaculate shrine of Imam Khomeyni—God's mercy be upon him.

Commentary Assesses State of Ties

LD2009125393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao arrived in Tehran today to hold discussions and exchange views with senior Iranian officials about bilateral ties, as well as regional and international issues.

This is Mr. Rao's first visit to our country. Consequently, other sensitive issues relating to mutual ties and India's position at the international level might also possibly be discussed.

The geo-political situation of India and Iran dictates that the two countries should extensively expand the scale of their ties. India, as the most powerful country in the Indian sub-continent, and Iran, too, as a powerful country in western Asia and in the middle eastern region, can play an important role in the area as well as in the international arena by strengthening their ties. The two countries' common interests and their 700-year long shared cultural history are a good basis for such ties.

India, as the regional power in southern Asia and as one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement, wishes to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. India has consistently been a player in international politics.

The end if the cold war, accompanied by the dissolution of the communist bloc, heralded a new order in international politics. India, similar with other regional powers, is busily studying the new situation and adopting new policies. To this end, cooperation with such powerful countries as Iran seems to be a necessity. India now has all but one of the necessary qualifications for becoming a world power and gaining a permanent seat on the [UN] Security Council. A big population, extensive territory, and considerable military might are among these qualifications.

One of India's problems [as heard] in this regard is her economic weakness. Despite notable progress in the trade, industrial, and agriculture spheres, India continues to be a poor developing country. Given New Delhi's move to economic reform, Iranian cooperation—given our actual and potential resources—can prove effective in India's economic position and its success.

In addition to helping India's economy, the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] can—in view of its strategic position in region of the Middle East as well as its proximity to Central Asia— act as a bridge linking India with Central Asia.

On the other hand, the two countries must adopt a unified economic policy on the international stage to achieve their aims. Iran and India, from an economic

viewpoint, fall within the category of developing and so-called southern countries. They must—while maintaining economic links with the north or developed countries—place south-south ties at the top of their economic policies.

Finally, cooperation between the two countries on regional security can help the even greater consolidation of the two countries' ties. The IRI has always stressed that the Indian Ocean should be an area of peace and calm. The IRI has stated its support for declaring the Indian Ocean an area of peace, and freedom from the rivalries between the big powers. The IRI believes that the responsibility for peace and security in this sensitive part of the world belongs to the countries of the region and that this region should be free from the interference of other countries.

The possibility of cooperation between Iran and India in the arena of regional security will become clearer when we see that the two countries have placed the following five essential principles at the top of their foreign policy lists: the preservation of national sovereignty; combating colonialism; non-interference in the affairs of other countries; the preservation of international peace and security; and peaceful cooperation with other countries.

Let us end this discussion of the need for cooperation between Iran and India on bilateral and international issues with a quote from Nehru. He said the following in one of his speeches: we are situated in one of the world's strategic areas at the center of the Indian Ocean. We have had and continue to have friendly relations with Western Asia. We cannot disregard this fact. We belong to Asia and the people of Asia are closer to us than anyone else. In the near future we must see closer unity between India, southeast Asia, Iran, and the Arab world. We must do everything we can to bring about sincere cooperation among the nations of the region.

The only worry which currently exists in the relations between Iran and India is the situation of Muslims in India and the problem of Kashmir. It is hoped that via the efforts of the IRI and the display of greater flexibility by India and Pakistan on the issues in dispute, the problem of Kashmir will soon be resolved and a new chapter will be opened [in relations] between these friendly and neighboring countries.

Azerbaijan Seen Pressed To Join Russia, CIS

NC2009155893 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Sep 93 p 12

[Hasan Fathi commentary: "Moscow-Baku: Improving Relations, Opposing Neighbors"]

[Text] In view of the agreements during acting Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Moscow and the stance the Russian Foreign Ministry adopted toward its neighbors, there is a general impression that events such as the escalating Armenian attacks, a change in the government in Baku, and the defeat of the Azerbaijanis in some way relate to Moscow with the objective of pressuring Azerbaijan to join Russia and the CIS.

When Elchibey's People's Front was in power, Azerbaijan leaned more toward Turkey than the West. The Azerbaijanis sought to avoid joining the CIS. They closed down the Russian base and took steps to expel the Russian forces. In such circumstances, the Armenians acted according to Moscow's policies and, while enjoying Russian support, they achieved successes in the war with Azerbaijan.

The change of government in Azerbaijan and the coming to power of former communists such as Aliyev and Gasanov revived Baku-Moscow relations. Aliyev's recent visit to Moscow opened a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. It was during this visit that Aliyev expressed the wish to join the CIS and agreed to Russian forces redeploying in Azerbaijan. He even asked Russian President Yeltsin to reestablish Russian military bases in Azerbaijan.

What is interesting and amazing about the recent accords between Russia and Azerbaijan is Baku's request that Moscow should station its forces on the border between Iran and Armenia, which bodes well for the prospects for peace in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has condemned the stationing of Iranian forces on Azerbaijani soil and has accused Turkish forces of opening fire on the Armenians.

All these developments are taking place in circumstances in which Russia has been a mere spectator to the Nagorno-Karabakh events and Azeri officials have admitted that Russian forces and mercenaries participated on the side of the Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh war. [as published]

Azerbaijan has called for deploying Russian forces on the Iran- Armenia border, while the Russian Foreign Ministry condemns Iran for sending its forces to the region, although Iran has hosted thousands of Azeri prisoners [osara"] and allocated part of its budget and resources—earmarked for reconstruction—to the Azerbaijanis.

Despite the coming to power of the former communists, Baku's leaning toward Moscow should not motivate them to turn their backs on those who supported them in the worst possible circumstances and who strove to mediate between the warring sides in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Baku echelons are euphoric about forging relations with Moscow, but they should not lose sight of the reality that if such a situation continued, the Nagorno-Karabakh war might end, but Azerbaijan's national sovereignty and independence could be lost and, as in the communist era, Azerbaijan might be reduced to a province in the new Russian empire.

'Forces of Islamism' To Sever Azerbaijan From Russia

NC2009153093 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Sep 93 p 15

[Howeyn Zi'ai commentary: "The Russian Role in the Nagorno- Karabakh Crisis"—punctuation as published]

[Text] Political analysts believe events in Nagorno-Karabakh and the expansionist Armenian policy against Azerbaijan clearly show Moscow's policies.

The objective of the joint Moscow-Yerevan policy is first to occupy and annex Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and subsequently return Azerbaijan to the affectionate fold of Moscow (!!) and the so-called CIS. The CIS is an insolvent loose conglomerate led by Moscow; it seeks to infuse some life into its border. Moscow considers Azerbaijan to be a "runaway" from the former Soviet Union, which should be made to join Russia's new political empire.

Armenia is pleased with its conquest of Nagorno-Karabakh and Russia is satisfied to revive its frontiers. As with Tajikistan, the Russians claim the Azerbaijani border is part of Russian territory!!

Observers believed the exit of Elchibey (the American element) and the coming to power of Aliyev (the Russian element) would see peace and negotiations reign supreme over the five-year war in Nagorno-Karabakh. Instead, Aliyev's belated action of joining Moscow merely fanned the flames of the war and of the multilateral Armenian onslaught against the Azerbaijani border. The usurping Armenian advances should be considered the result of "Moscow's fist."

In recent days, the cresting of Armenia's aggression drew strong reaction from Azerbaijan's neighbors. The possibility of its becoming an international conflict in the name of a Muslim-Orthodox Christian war or a "second Bosnia" would have brought harmful repercussions for Russia.

The Russians do not favor transforming what they consider their domestic problem into an international one, because the current Russian policy is to revive the strength of the former Soviet Union regionally and internationally. Since Aliyev's visit to Moscow and his declaration that he plans to join the CIS and attend its next summit soon, the "first step" has been taken toward closeness with Moscow.

The release of six Russian soldiers sentenced to death for killing 30 Azerbaijani soldiers was the second such move by the Azerbaijani Parliament in this direction. Baku's rejoining the ruble zone and allocating military bases to Russia along with the official redeployment of Russian soldiers in Azerbaijan are signs of Moscow's pivotal role in the recent Armenian attacks against Baku.

You could say Russia's expansionist objectives have recently nurtured the aggressive spirit of the Armenians: attacking Azerbaijan, occupying Nagorno-Karabakh, and ending the five-year Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in favor of the Armenians. Thus, the Nagorno-Karabakh war overtly displayed Russian expansionism.

But Moscow seems to have overlooked that with such drastic and harsh measures, the Russians can never rein in the runaway forces from the center and Central Asia, that is, the forces of Islamism. The recent actions by the Russians were in response to its own interests in Central Asia. The new Russia can't forcibly retain Central Asia, one of the main bulwarks of the Islamic world, just as 70 years of red tsarist rule could not achieve this objective.

Moscow's error lies in believing that Central Asia will continue to revolve around its political orbit, even though the region is in the throes of a revolution and political fervor is seething under its seemingly placid exterior, which will eventually sever it from Moscow. The forces behind this revolution are the forces of Islamism.

President Receives Turkmen Ministers 20 Sep

LD2009190893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening received Messrs Sarjayev and Suyunov, respectively the vice president [title as heard] and fuel minister of Turkmenistan. At the meeting the Turkmen vice president and fuel minister submitted reports to the president on talks held with our country's officials about agreements between the two countries on economic and technical cooperation, particularly the construction of the Sasakhs-Tajan railway and gas pipelines.

Voicing his satisfaction about the growing trend of ties between the two countries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that relations will improve in line with the interests of the two friendly and Muslim countries of Iran and Turkmenistan.

Memorandum on Cooperation Signed

LD2009202893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] A memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation was signed between Iran and Turkmenistan in Tehran on Monday.

The memorandum of understanding includes the finalizing of the draft agreement on land transport between the two countries, border and consular cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan for the purpose of creating facilities for the traffic of vehicles and granting visas to drivers from other countries, erecting border posts to facilitate cargo transport and carrying out the necessary study for the construction of the railway between Kazanjik, Kizil Atrak, and Bandar Torkaman [first two towns in Turkmenistan, last in Iran]

Larijani Discusses Regional Issues With UK Official

LD1909171893 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Iran's deputy chief of foreign policy commission in Majles, Javad Larijani, called the current trend of compromise in the Middle East as showing total disregard for the international law and in line with consolidation of the aggression which does not bode well for world peace.

In a meeting with assistant undersecretary of British Foreign Office, Michael Burton, Larijani said that the international community should not let the aggression, oppression and discrimination be legitimized. In reference to the U.S. propaganda over Iran-bound Chinese cargo ship Yin He, Larijani said that the security and peace in the strategic waterway of the Persian Gulf were put at risk by unilateral adventurism of an alien force.

Larijani said that the lack of security in the Persian Gulf was caused by presence of foreign forces in the region and by continuation of the rule of the government in Baghdad.

"The foreigners continuously create tension and pessimism in the region. In effect, by using their influence in the countries of the region, they prevent close cooperation between these countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

The British official described the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and the world as important and expressed hope that his visit will pave the way for expanding bilateral relations.

President on Domestic, Foreign Policies

LD1909192393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] On the eve of the visit of India's prime minister to our country, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in an interview with the correspondent of the HINDUSTAN TIMES, replied to the latter's questions regarding domestic and foreign issues. In this interview, the president said that the priorities of the country's second [economic] plan are to continue with the policies of the first plan such as training the labor force, infrastructural works, expansion of agriculture, implementation of justice by making up for the underdevelopments of the deprived sectors and, ultimately, striving to reach self-sufficiency.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered that there is no contradiction between building a modern Iran and being Islamic. He said: Because I know Islam well, I see no contradiction between Islam's teachings and modernization. On the contrary, the two are in complete harmony. The president emphasized: If the Westerners would set aside their hegemonistic tendencies, the potential would then exist for an all- embracing bilateral cooperation. In connection with the future of relations with [the United States of] America, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani said: We have always said that America should show goodwill. If she really shows goodwill, this can be the start of improvement.

The president considered that the PLO-Israeli accord—in which no notice has been taken of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian nation—was aimed at breaking the resistance of the people of Palestine and of the Arabs. Regarding the establishment of peace and security in the Persian Gulf region, he said: Regional countries should have confidence in each other and trust each other and should not be concerned about the bullying of powerful countries. If this peace of mind comes about in the countries of the region with cooperation there would then not be any need for foreign countries to intervene to establish peace.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani rejected the claims of those who accuse Iran of hegemonistic intentions in the region, especially with regard to the Iranian islands [Greater and Lesser Tunb, Abu Musa]. Regarding reports of Iran's support for terrorism in Western Asia, he said: This is an utter lie. We ourselves have been the victim of terrorism more than anyone else and have lost the best friends of our revolution as a consequence of terrorism. I, myself, carry the scars of terrorist bullets on my chest and Iran abhors terrorism more than others. What is strange is that those same terrorists who are devious [enheraf ham darand] are being supported in some Western countries.

The president said that in view of our net oil income, Iran's short-term debts are not substantial. He added: Our one year's revenue meets all our obligations.

About the expanding trend of Iran-China relations and the objectives of these relations, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In view of the conditions we face with the United States and some western countries, China is a good partner for cooperation with us. The president termed the level of cooperation with China as being mainly economic cooperation and, to a limited extent, defense cooperation.

In reply to a question by the HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent on the issues to be discussed during the coming visit of India's prime minister to Iran, the president said: The talks will be on bilateral relations and we will also discuss the possibility of some sort of joint cooperation in the Asian continent. About the axis of Iran- India-China cooperation and as to whether this matter has been discussed with China, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There have been talks with this country and some Central Asian countries. One of the issues we discussed at the Economic Cooperation Organization session was the method of cooperation among the Asian countries.

In conclusion, referring to the good grounds for cooperation between Iran and Russia on the issue of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This issue is highly significant to us, for it seriously affects Iran's security. We have had serious talks with Armenia and have told them explicitly that we will not tolerate aggression any longer. Of course, we have made some progress and we have discussed the matter with Mr. Yeltsin.

Day of PLO-Israeli Pact Signing 'Black Monday'

NC2009124393 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Black Monday"]

[Excerpts] The PLO-Israeli compromise accord will be signed at a ceremony in Washington today. To protest this major treason, the heroic Palestinian nation has named the day "Black Monday." [passage omitted]

This is not an accord between two countries with equal rights and it is not a compromise between two sides with equal interests. What is happening does not even mark "unity" or a "merger," but transmutes the PLO, represents an unconditional surrender to the occupiers, and tries to erase Palestine.

It is not even a transaction in which the Palestinians have gained something. Under these conditions, everyone should react to this great treason and to this disgraceful surrender and should rise to fight all its repercussions.

The Islamic land of Palestine does not belong to 'Arafat or, beyond that, to the PLO so that they have the right to hand it over to the Zionist occupiers.

Palestine is an inseparable part of Islam and no decision or step by anyone can sever it from the body. Our problem today goes beyond mere opposition to the talks and compromise. 'Arafat and his accomplices have handed over Palestine to its enemies and to the enemies of Islam and they themselves have accepted the disgrace of enslavement to Israel so that from now on they can act as its agents and hirelings in crushing the "intifadah" and the Islamic uprising of Palestine. All this treason and groveling should be confronted. This is a great responsibility that all nations and governments throughout Islam face and every resource should be used to prevent the unconditional surrender of Palestine to Islam's enemies.

This is the responsibility of all those who feel a sense of duty toward Islam and the Muslim nations and they can and should avert this great treason.

Some Arab regimes in the region think "we cannot be more Palestinian than the Palestinians." But the terrified Arab governments are resorting to a demagogic justification and an abject approach to relieve themselves of their responsibilities. Handing over Islamic territory to Islam's enemies forever is not a domestic issue concerning only a country's statesmen, irrespective of whether they are competent or not. Confronting such an act is a collective responsibility for Islam and we should all perform this irrevocable duty. In today's ceremony at the White House, the United States, Israel, and all the enemies of Islam may consider themselves the victors. But this shameful game that will disgrace the Muslims should be confronted. The nations are ready to do so.

Nateq-Nuri on Need To Confront Corruption

LD2109104393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The concluding session of the Friday prayer imams seminar was held at Hoseynieh-e Imam Khomeyni this morning. During this session Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, commenting on the current state of the country, said: At the present Islam has become the serious problem of the arrogant world, and global powers have concentrated their conspiracies against its center on the economic, political, and cultural fronts.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: On the basis of our principles and aspirations we have opposed the PLO-Israeli compromise accord. We cannot retreat from our religious values and the issues for which we staged a revolution. Stressing the illegitimacy of the Zionist regime, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always maintained the same stance against Israel and has considered it an illegitimate, usurping, and racist regime. Despite U.S. opposition, we cannot abandon this principled stance of ours.

He stressed the need for full coordination between the cabinet and the Majles and said: The high number of votes given by the Majles to the president's cabinet demonstrates the unity and full harmony with the government. The Majles regards the interests of the regime and the state as a principle.

Reiterating the need for dealing with the issues that create dissatisfaction among the people, Nateq-Nuri said: The state authorities should coordinate their efforts to remove the existing difficulties in the country's administrative system. The Majles is prepared to eliminate the existing legal problems of the judicial and legislative branches through speedy review and approval of the necessary bills.

The speaker added that one of the Majles' objectives in the second five-year plan is to seriously confront corruption in the administrative system. He went on: The fundamental way of confronting the cultural onslaught is to attract and value the Hezbollahi youths, and for this purpose it is necessary to raise the daily issues and requirements of society in an enlightening manner during the Friday prayer sermons.

President Addresses Friday Prayer Imams

LD2009141093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] As you heard earlier in the newscast, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani today attended a gathering of Friday prayer imams from all over the country. In his address to the gathering he stressed the necessity for compiling organized agenda and plans for the tasks carried out by religious scholars, in particular the Friday imams, in line and in harmony with the present circumstances. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani underlined the importance of efforts to provide a good and exemplary model of government for posterity. He rejected simplistic and superficial decisions in the areas of government and political administration. He said: In managing the country's affairs we cannot behave in a selfish and superficial manner. We cannot neglect the future generations of this country in our plans and programs, and spend all the means and resources of our Islamic land on consumer goods and everyday needs. We are pursuing lofty objectives for the future of the country and the proud nation of Iran. In this connection, informing people about the importance of participation in the process of furthering these objectives is an essential task.

The president then referred to the need to pay attention to society's essential needs. He described the concentration of all efforts on implementing infrastructural tasks as one of his important duties. He added: We deal with international issues in an active way and on the basis of the Islamic and Koranic school of thought. We have always adopted resolute stances toward the world of blasphemy, the Palestine issue, and the tragedy in Bosnia. We, of course, have to pay the price for these stances. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Urges Imams To Promote 'Openmindedness'

LD2109104593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni addressed the nationwide conference of the Friday imams last night, noting the important role of the Friday imams in neutralizing the propaganda of the enemies of the system and the revolution. He said: In order to neutralize the negative propaganda of foreign media, an appropriate environment should be created, with openmindedness, for the interraction of different thoughts and viewpoints.

Khomeyni called for greater attention on the part of the Friday imams toward the difficulties faced by the people of the region. He said: The incorrect explanations of issues will harm the social and political reputation of the Friday imams. He stressed the need to avoid creating an environment that breeds flatterers. He said: Confronting individuals or defending them should be on the basis of principles and values. [passage omitted]

* Paper on Leaning of Country's Major Dailies

93LA0227G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 18 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—19 Mordad [10 August]. An organization calling itself the Iran Unity Party recently issued a paper outside the country discussing the free activities of various domestic political groups, and called for the formation of these groups for the purpose of party activity.

Part of the paper from this group says: The idea that there are no parties in the Islamic Republic of Iran is incorrect. There are now four unannounced parties operating inside the country, whose organs are four of the nation's important newspapers. The right-wing party (the newspaper RESALAT), the left-wing party (the newspaper SALAM), the government party (the newspaper ETTELA'AT) and the hezbollah (the newspaper KEYHAN). Each of these parties represents special interests and preferences and all of them also adhere to the Constitution.

This group proposed that these parties openly and officially enter into the marketplace of politics so that their positions in relation to one another will be clarified and also so the people will know where they stand with them.

Continuing the paper, this group discussed the fact that there are other parties in Iran operating secretly and privately and calling for Constitutional reform. It wrote: In the view of the Iran Unity Party, any step towards the clear and public formation of parties will only end in hurting two groups. The first group is those who want to usurp all the rights of the people and the second group is those who think the only way to achieve political and economic change is through turmoil and bloodshed.